

HOME NEWS

Senior TUC members to meet Chancellor next week to discuss next phase of pay policy

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Senior members of the TUC will meet Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, next week in an effort to formulate an alternative to the rigid pay structures that have marked the past two years of the special relationship between the two sides.

When they meet, the phase two agreement will have only six weeks to run and the task will be to find a course that meets both the unions' desire to maintain living standards and the Government's determination to reduce the rate of inflation.

When members of the TUC economic committee met yesterday they did not discuss figures although they had as a background to their discussions a secretariat document which in effect argues the case for an unspecified minimum wage.

It appears that the one absolute guarantee they could offer the Government would be a determination to ensure that

the 12-month rule between pay awards inherent in the current agreement is rigidly adhered to.

Mr Healey will meet the TUC in the knowledge that the future of an agreement will lie with the delegates to the biennial conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union next month.

With conference decision running at 2,700,000 to 2,400,000 against a further pay of wage restraint, the transport union clearly holds the key to what form a further pay policy will take.

If the Government can demonstrate that its policies, particularly towards prices and inflation, are working, then the counter-inflationary impact of a rigid adherence to stage two could help to moderate union demands in pay claims.

Another important aspect would be agreement on a satisfactory productivity deal between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board.

Yesterday Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said they were talking about unionists maintaining their living standards, and not about trying to get back what they had lost.

Mr Murray said that next week's meeting would deal primarily with the twin objectives of an orderly return to voluntary collective bargaining and controlling inflation. He added: "We are not looking for a wages explosion next year. I believe an agreement can be reached."

Referring to the stated aim of some unions to defer their imminent pay claims until after July 31, Mr Murray said the general council would "remind, not warn" unions of their obligations under the current agreement.

Delegates representing 200,000 members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees yesterday gave qualified support to a phase three agreement but said price increases had to be frozen to the same percentage.

Mr Healey warns banks, page 21

members appear not yet to have accepted the idea of a democratic organisation, the minority must abide by the decisions of the majority."

It was, he said, the first call for national industrial action by the union. In his presidential address, Mr Cordell declared that when the union was Nalco did not lack power. A number of branches had flexed their muscles to good effect.

"In doing so," he added, "they have told Government and employers loud and clear that no glib assumptions can be made, even if they could in the past, that public servants would docilely accept their fate, whatever their masters decided to do."

A procedural mix up is preventing the presentation today of a motion in support of the social contract, when a vote will be taken on two separate resolutions opposing a continuation of wage restraint.

But the overall effect has not been nearly as great as had been hoped when the decision was taken with overwhelming support at a special one-day Nalco conference in London in January.

The union's leaders have shown no public signs of concern at the effects of the ban and in some cases have been privately glad to have their own pay claims reduced.

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Bitter end to poll campaign in Eire

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

The Irish general election campaign is drawing to a close with some of the bitterest exchanges on Northern Ireland between politicians in the Republic since the crisis began in 1969.

Fortified by the results of a private opinion poll showing the voters' concern about the opposition Fianna Fail's policy on Ulster, the ruling coalition of Fine Gael and Labour is presenting security as the main issue.

At the coalition's final news conference yesterday, before polling tomorrow, senior members of the two parties repeated the Government's central allegation that the opposition was not to be trusted in its attitude towards the Provisional IRA.

Some Irish commentators have said that savagery with which the main groupings are debating the Northern Ireland issue has dashed any hopes of a bipartisan approach emerging when a new Parliament is elected.

Mr Cosgrave, the Prime Minister, said that the private polls had shown that security and Northern Ireland were important issues. "The people recognize that stability and security are paramount. They recognize that no economic or social progress is possible unless there is a firm guarantee that stability will be assured."

A British apology was made to the Irish authorities after an army helicopter made an accidental incursion into the Republic and was forced by lack of fuel to land near Irish Army barracks in the border town of Monaghan.

Witnesses said that an attempt by the helicopter to land inside the barracks compound was frustrated by Irish troops. "A few minutes later it came down on waste ground outside, and its two-man crew were taken away for questioning by police. The helicopter was damaged and its engine was destroyed."

Shots were fired yesterday at an army observation post near Rathfriland, Co. Wick, where the search for the body of Captain Robert Nairn, an Army liaison officer, continues. The Provisional IRA has admitted his murder.

Six members of them in Northern Ireland and one in the Republic, have been charged with Captain Nairn's murder.

UDA men detained: Thirteen suspected members of the Ulster Defence Association were detained and later released after a search of their homes in the Irish Republic yesterday.

His view was that the Court of Appeal was wrong and such a person was not competent to bring proceedings for a declaration, and nor should an injunction be granted.

Mr Silkin said it might be wondered why, as he had succeeded by a majority in the Court of Appeal on the major issues, he should now be seeking on one point to be overruled by the House of Lords.

The answer is, he said, that the Court of Appeal, having bolted the front door, had invented a back door route to the same destination.

He had declined to give his reasons to the Court of Appeal for not leading his name to Mr Gormley's action because the discretion of the Attorney General in respect of relator proceedings was "unfettered" and "not reviewable by the courts."

All three appeal judges accepted that if the Attorney General decided in favour of allowing a relator to bring proceedings in his name, he did so in his absolute discretion and the courts would not inquire into the exercise of that discretion. They would assume

that the public interest required it.

The knowledge that that had been the undoubted approach of the courts, certainly during this century, plainly added overwhelmingly to the sense of responsibility of any Attorney General in the exercise of that function. The judges' decision was likely to pause and hesitate before stepping in a new direction or setting a new precedent.

Mr Silkin said: "I did not seek to justify my decision to refuse the use of my name before the Court of Appeal. I purposely and deliberately declined to do so, because I took the view that to do so would be tantamount to conceding the principle that the courts had the power to review and hence to control this function."

That is something my predecessor has done, and I am in refusing to concede it regarded themselves not as being above the law, but as complying with the law."

If that was now changed, he would, of course, adhere to the law.

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Mr Silkin recently decided that information concerning Beves and the Cambridge connexion should not be made public as the time for its disclosure was not yet ripe.

Reve profile, page 16

Storms cause widespread damage and flooding in the South

Thunderstorms over the southern half of Britain early yesterday damaged homes, flooded roads, disrupted rail services, battered crops and made a dismal backdrop to the start of Royal Ascot.

A woman drowned when her car plunged into the swollen River Ouse at Bedford last night. Police divers recovered her body.

The weather centre at Bracknell, Berkshire, had its computer knocked out of action by a power failure.

London fire brigades dealt with about 400 flood calls and in East Dulwich a house was badly damaged by fire after being struck by lightning. Rail services to London were curtailed and flooding caused long delays for drivers.

In Fenge, south London, the police station, a supermarket and dozens of homes were flooded. Part of Norwood school, Norwood, was under several feet of water.

Keat was one of the counties worst affected, with many minor and some main roads flooded. At Sevenoaks the A21 was partly cordoned off where the force of water had damaged the surface. A landslide near Northfleet closed the railway line between Gravesend and Dartford. Roads subsided in the Maidstone area.

In Margate an elderly man died after lightning set off the fire alarm at an hotel where he was on holiday with his family.

All the guests evacuated the Bude Hotel, Bude, but Mr William Parry, aged 67, of Elder Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, went back in because he mistakenly thought his son was still inside. He collapsed and died.

A sack of paper pulp in Soudham, near Rochester, was struck by lightning and badly damaged by fire.

At Ascot course officials estimated that about 100,000 gallons of rain had fallen in 36 hours. But the racing was on.

As the royal party drove along the course the wheels of their open landaus sank into the wet ground and the group was delayed for some time.

Officials ruled that Mrs Gertrude Shilling's jubilee year offering, a 3ft high by 6ft wide red, white and blue hat, was not suitable for the comfort and viewing of other spectators.

Mrs Shilling changed into a silver fox fur hat and coat and was then allowed into the Royal Enclosure.

In Ipswich a sausage factory on the outskirts of the town which caught fire at the height of the storm is thought to have been struck by lightning.

Throughout Suffolk electricity supplies were cut off for hours.

Six terrace houses in Hutton Drive, Sheffield, Essex, were evacuated after being struck by lightning, but no one was hurt.

The thunderstorms caused more damage and disruption as they swept on through the Midlands. The AA in Birmingham reported up to 12 inches of water on some roads.

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

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Ascot report and photograph, page 9

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Ascot report and photograph, page 9

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Rain stopped before the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh drove along the course on the first day of Royal Ascot.

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

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Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Ascot report and photograph, page 9

Inquiry into police clash with pickets

By a Staff Reporter

Thirteen more pickets arrested outside the Gru Processing Laboratories north London yesterday.

Home Secretary called for urgent report into police conduct at the site.

Three women and 10 are to appear at Woll Green and Harrow Magistrates courts today on charges of assaulting and obstructing police, using threatening violence and attempted criminal damage. Another 77, arrested earlier yesterday, are to appear at Woll Green Magistrates court today.

Answering Commons questions in the absence of Prime Minister, Mr Leader of the House, said the Home Secretary will for an immediate investigation into police treatment of pickets on Monday.

About two hundred members of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (APCCS), which is demanding a vote by the Grumwick management, continued to apply sure through a mass picket yesterday.

Their show of strength matched by the police, had arrived by 7 am in coaches at the main picket line in Chapter Wollgreen. Workers tried to enter the gates, outnumbered by pickets on the pavement.

Workers, who did not break through the picket line, were greeted with a hail of stones by the pickets. Some of the pickets were injured and some were arrested.

Mr George Ward, four and a half years in the Home Secretary's office, said the 10-month dispute had a full quota of employees at work. "We are seeking to represent our employees and the staff democratically expressed wish that they do not be represented by Apex said. "We are not an union company, merely union."

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

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Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

Parliamentary report, p. 9

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Nalco divided on continuing overtime ban

From Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Scarborough

White collar council workers are sharply divided over whether to continue a national overtime ban imposed more than 10 weeks ago as a protest over public spending cuts.

The ban has proved one of the most contentious issues before the Scarborough conference this week of the National and Local Government Officers Association (Nalco), whose 700,000 members were told to end all overtime work from April 1. But nearly half the 1,200 branches have defied the instruction and are working normally.

The action has in some areas had a big impact on refuse collection and on the opening hours of swimming pools and leisure centres. In Strathclyde a few other areas refuse collection has been hampered.

Free vote for ministers on Europe

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party last night stated that Cabinet ministers and other members of the Government will be given a free vote on the principle of direct elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Callaghan indicated that the Government would introduce a Bill with two sets of clauses. One would be on a regional system, incorporating an element of proportional representation; the other would be on a simple majority, the traditional Westminster first-past-the-post electoral system.

The Second Reading on the direct elections Bill will be early next month, and Mr Callaghan said that progress will be planned in the light of that result. Holding a draft of the Bill in his hand, he expressed the view that the Bill would not get through in the current session, but he expected it to get through in the next session.

He would like to think that the Government would be united in support of the Bill, but unfortunately a number of Government ministers, he said, without naming them, held strong contrary views.

The Prime Minister's declaration means that both Cabinet and junior ministers will be free to vote against the direct elections Bill on second reading. Mr Callaghan expressed the hope that having shown their views in this way they would not find it necessary to vote against the Bill in division after division.

When the Prime Minister was asked whether ministers would be able to speak against the Bill, Mr Callaghan replied: "No, no."

When he was asked to give his reason, Mr Callaghan replied: "I do not mind suffering embarrassment but will not make a fool of myself."

Mr Callaghan's decision is bound to come under severe attack by the Conservatives, who will challenge him for abandoning traditional collective ministerial responsibility.

However, he has had to recognize the deep divisions within the Parliamentary Labour Party over the issue of Europe, which ranges from the back benches in the Cabinet room in Downing Street.

NUJ members black copy

Nearly 50 journalists on the Evening Advertiser, Swindon, yesterday blocked all further supply by the Press Association to support a strike by colleagues in Darlington over the employment there of a sub-editor not in the National Union of Journalists.

Swindon journalists are also refusing to handle material from the London office of Westminster Press, the group which includes both the Evening Advertiser and the Darlington papers.

Fishing limit demand as 50 trawlers sail into London

By Michael Horsfield

Demands within the sailing fishing industry for the unilateral declaration of a 50-mile exclusive fishing limit for British trawlers intensified yesterday as more than 50 vessels sailed up the Thames in protest against EEC fisheries policy.

The fleet, ranging from tiny inshore smacks to distant-water freezer trawlers, arrived from ports all round the coast and settled under Tower Bridge.

They brought severe congestion to the Pool of London. Because of an exceptionally high tide, only three small vessels were able to sail on to protest inside the Houses of Parliament.

Leading the convoy to the Tower of London was the 296-ton Fleetwood trawler Boston Blenheim, which was leaving for a 1,600-mile trip to the Arctic immediately after the protest.

Her master, Mr Robert Rawcliffe, aged 42, said: "We cannot take our cause much nearer to the seat of Government and power. Any nearer and we would have run aground on the Opposition benches."

"British fishermen have been treated shabbily. We have been pushed around the North Atlantic grounds like the pauper of the fishing world and banned from many grounds that our fishermen mined."

The protest, coordinated by the British Fishing Federation, was timed to be noted by the EEC's Council of Agricultural Ministers when it discusses revision of the common fisheries policy on June 27.

The industry fears that without tough action, EEC vessels will be able to fish up to British beaches by 1982, depleting stocks and putting thousands of people out of work.

Mr David Hawley, secretary of the Grimsby Trawler Officers' Guild, said: "I do not know of any aspect of the Treaty of Rome which says members of the EEC can plunder another's natural resources."

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Reve profile, page 16

Reve profile, page 16

Reve profile, page 16

Reve profile, page 16

HOME NEWS

Bill on rates relief for disabled will move legal doubts

Healy Services Correspondent
Government has decided to give rate relief to disabled people and clarify confused legal position in a series of actions that will be taken in a House of Lords in 1977.

The new Bill will give all disabled people who have an entitlement to their home some relief. It will be introduced after consultation with local authorities and other organizations.

The Government's proposal is expected to go on in the House of Lords in 1977. The Bill is likely to be introduced in the House of Commons in the autumn.

The House of Lords, however, reversed their decision and the Bill was restored to the list of full valuations.

Action urged over sales of substandard potatoes

Mr. Young, Minister for Agriculture, said: "For some time I have been concerned about the quality of potatoes sold to the public."

The committee found a disturbing difference between the quality of potatoes sold to the public and the quality of potatoes sold to the army and the police.

Mr. Wood said: "Very poor quality potatoes are getting through to the consumer. However, Dr. Janet Cockcroft, chairman, admitted that the committee had not received one complaint about the quality of potatoes since its last report."

Complaints about the board's scheme may be addressed to the Consumers' Committee for Great Britain at Great West House, 100 Victoria Road, London, SW1P 2AE. Report on the Potato Marketing Scheme (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Publications, Fisheries and Food, London, £1.50, by post £1.68).

Worker gave up job rather than play cards

From Our Correspondent, Birmingham

Mr. Derek Plows, a former British Leyland worker, walked out of the company's plant at Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, rather than play cards all day, a Birmingham industrial tribunal was told. He had done that for four months and then decided that if there was no work he wanted to be made redundant.

The tribunal ruled yesterday that he was right to dismiss himself and has ordered British Leyland to pay him redundancy money. His walkout, it was stated, came after the closure of the night shift in the trim shop where he worked.

Mr. Plows, aged 42, of Shelley Close, Farnborough, and others were offered jobs on the day shift, where they were surplus to labour requirements. The tribunal decided that a payment of £3,380 a year for being idle was not an adequate substitute for £4,264 a year working through the night.

Although Mr. Plows had walked out, it found that the circumstances amounted to the same thing as dismissal for redundancy. The tribunal's decision was seen by the Transport and General Workers' Union last night as a test case for 17 claims alleging unfair dismissal which it is bringing against the company.

Mr. Plows's payment is likely to be about £310 when it is agreed between the company and the union. In addition the company agreed, outside the hearing, to pay him £30 severance pay and the notice money he forfeited when he quit.

Giving the tribunal's decision that it was obvious there was redundancy, the chairman, Mr. Gerald Foster, said: "Loss of job satisfaction may not be sufficient reason to leave, of itself. But Mr. Plows permanently lost the opportunity of night shift work, which means a substantial loss of pay."

After the hearing Mr. Plows said: "All I was doing all day long was playing cards. That was no good to me. I like to be active. I have a son who is just starting his O levels and I want him to stay on at school for another two years. I could not afford that if I had to face such a drop in wages."

Musical marathon

Nine Oxford University students intend to play all 32 Haydn quartets without an interruption from 3 p.m. today until tomorrow evening. The proceeds will go to the Oxford Cyrenians and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Stolen paintings recovered by the Flying Squad on show at Kensington police station.

Business still attracts the public school boys

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Economics and business studies continue to attract a high proportion of public school boys, according to a survey on the intended careers of nearly 14,000 boys and 1,000 girls who left independent schools last year.

The Independent Schools Careers Organization's *Careers Bulletin*, published yesterday, records that one in 12 boys leaving the 150 public schools

in the survey made that field their choice. That made it the second most popular career choice for boys after engineering, which attracted a tenth of all leavers.

Science was the third most popular choice, followed by languages, law and medicine. Among girls, secretarial work is still the most popular career, chosen last year by one in eight leaving the 45 public schools in the survey. Languages comes second, chosen by one in nine.

and third nursing, chosen by one in 14. Science has risen by two places to fourth.

The largest drop for both girls and boys is in teaching and lecturing, only 4.9 per cent of girls and 1.1 per cent of boys choosing that career last year, compared with 8.4 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively the year before.

Four-fifths of the girls and three-quarters of the boys said they intended to go into full-time further or higher education.

That compares with only one-fifth of all school leavers going into further and higher education. More than half the independent school boys (54.5 per cent) and more than two-fifths of the independent school girls (44.5 per cent) intended to go to university, compared with only one in 15 (6.6 per cent) of all school leavers.

Careers Bulletin (Independent Schools Careers Organization, 12a-18a, Princess Way, Camberley, Surrey).

Deferred pay rise plan ends the TV dispute

By Kenneth Gosling

Pay increases for 34 woman production assistants who have been in dispute with Thames Television are to be banked for them until they can be paid legally under the pay code.

That agreement, together with an inquiry into their working conditions, was accepted last night. The assistants will resume normal working at the company's Teddington studios this morning. The offer is similar to the one rejected more than two weeks ago.

The dispute, over a claim for extra payment for working a new system of editing disrupted Thames's jubilee coverage and prevented the editing of several programmes.

Anti-rabies law was broken

Air India was fined £100 with £50 costs at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, Middlesex, yesterday for breaking Britain's anti-rabies laws. It admitted landing a mongrel dog at Heathrow airport, London, last November without an import licence.

Mr. Anthony Webb, for the airline, said the dog had a vaccination certificate, and an agent for Air India in New York, where the aircraft came from, wrongly thought that was sufficient.

Views of London 2: A clutch of barges drifts through a half-deserted Thameside. The men of dockland always come back to the river

By Peter Godfrey

Captain Abel set three alarm clocks. With a 25-hour shift ahead of him, it was not a question of clocking in on time, but of keeping up with the tide. An hour's lateness would prevent him from mooring his lighters alongside the wharf, and the journey up the Thames would be wasted.

He walked over the twisted rails and sleepers of the Royal Albert Dock and climbed down a rusty ladder, as familiar with the rungs as with every light and warehouse window on the river. He let the engine of the tug warm up, water smacking against the hollow metal of the hull.

Dockers arrived for the early shift, although few ships were in the dock, and the rows of upright cranes with grey cross girders looked permanently inert. In the past one could walk across the dock from boat to boat; and "seek-

ing" tugs queued for extra loads.

The dockers used to be hungry for work, piecework. Now there was no hurry, but even a hint of apathy as they gathered, secure in their expectation of a standard wage, among the sackcloth packages in a corrugated iron warehouse. "It only takes a cloud over Deptford to stop work on some cargoes now", a foreman said sceptically.

The tug left the dock with four lightermen on board, and the captain manoeuvred alongside a buoy where four lightermen were moored. The lightermen cushioned the impact with woven-rope fenders and used a bitt, like a garden hose, to pick the ropes off the buoy and attach them to the tug. The lightermen had to move swiftly, timing the run of the buoy, tying the ropes taut until they shook off spray, then slackening them again on

turning to guide the four lumbering vessels up river.

The lightermen's specialized skills take a five-year apprenticeship. Captain Abel, born by the Thames at Isleworth, was apprenticed to his uncle. His family have worked on the river for 200 years.

The decline of river traffic has forced many dockers and lightermen to look for work elsewhere. Some have taken pubs, others to driving taxis. Many moved out from the East End to Kent. But they always come back to the river. At a dockers' wedding everyone is likely to be a waterman except the pianist. "A lighterman drowned in King George Dock the other week", the captain said. "The police dragged the dock and couldn't find him, but the watermen got together, got a boat, and found their mate."

The tug churned upstream, past a grain terminal where lighters were being loaded.

stern first, and through large silos, flock of pigeons in attendance. Beyond Greenwich, where a power station contrasts with the elegant twin domes of the Royal Naval College, there is less activity. The wharves that were once a forest of masts and rigging are mostly deserted. Dreadnought Wharf is a mass of black squares, with a thin chimney, oil drums and splintered timber. On the north bank, where the Surrey Canal used to meet the Thames (it is now blocked off), is a ghost ship, a rattle of rusted iron with vacant portholes. To the south, crane booms are drawn in alongside the desolate warehouses.

"At Regent's Canal Dock all they take by river now is a little scrap iron. The rest is done by road." The ascendancy of road transport has left the Thames half deserted, with the added irony that many old docks are used by juggernauts

for parking and storage. Captain Abel was taking 1,500 tons of concrete, about 60 lorry loads, through the centre of London uncongested.

The tug crew lowered the mast to pass under Tower Bridge; it is rarely opened now. Further upstream the embankment was decorated with lion heads, rings through their mouths. It is said that if the lions are drinking it will be tight for headroom under Westminster Bridge; and it was, land-water swelling the river from a storm the night before.

Towards the expanses of rubble and wasteland near Wandsworth the lightermen slackened the ropes and the tug rounded to port to unload. The sun threw a dappled light on the river, and the crew took a short rest. But high tide was at a quarter to three, and watermen go with the tide.

Next: The homeless

Join our Great Jubilee Celebrations. And book a free Summer Care Check at your local Leyland Cars Showroom.



From 17th June - 3rd July, it's all happening at your local Leyland Cars (Mini, Austin, Morris, Princess, M.G., Triumph, Rover, Jaguar and Daimler) showrooms.



Free Summer Care Check.

Here's what we're offering:

Whatever make of car you're driving, bring it along to any showroom displaying our 'Free Summer Care Check' banner.

The check includes tyres; fan belt; radiator; under-bonnet fluid levels; lamps and general body/paint condition.

Free and without any obligation whatsoever.

Free test drive.

You can test drive any Leyland car that your dealer has to offer. So come in and find out just how good our cars really are.

Free valuation of your car.

We'll give you a careful and considered valuation of your car. Again, without any obligation.

It may be worth a lot more than you think.

Great Jubilee Celebrations.

Celebrate the Jubilee with us.

Together with our usual excellent service facilities and parts back-up, there's a whole lot of things going on at your local Leyland Cars showroom.

So bring along your family.

See your local paper or call your dealer for details.

Many showrooms will have late night and weekend openings, too.

Come and join the fun, but hurry it must end 3rd July.

It's a great year for Britain. And a great deal for you.



Leyland Cars

Great cars and a great deal more.

HOME NEWS

Jail for seven heroin ring members called by judge 'pedlars of death for profit'

Seven members of a £10m heroin syndicate described by Judge Clarke, QC, as pedlars of death for profit, were jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. They were said to be linked with the Chinese secret society, the Triad.

The judge dealt first with two of the ringleaders. Kok Lian Ng (pronounced Ung), known as "Jason", aged 33, son of a Malaysian tin mine millionaire, was jailed for 12 years and fined a total of £30,000 for smuggling into Britain up to 17lb of heroin worth an estimated £7m, and plotting to supply and possessing the drug with intent to supply.

Syed Abu Baker, aged 29, a logistic contractor, from Selangor, Malaysia, described as Mr Ng's courier, was jailed for 10 years and fined a total of £10,000.

The Crown had alleged that the drugs ring involved a total of 26lb of Chinese heroin. "For the first time yesterday it was disclosed to the court that by the time the drug had reached the addict, it was diluted to a tenth of its original purity. It would have fetched £472,500 a lb."

The judge said: "Although, unlike the Far East, where the penalty for trafficking in heroin may well be death, it is regarded in this country as a very serious offence. As far as death is concerned, the people who have been responsible for facilitating death in this court are yourselves."

"You have peddled death to people who required this drug and could hardly keep away from it, and in return you made enormous profits."

"It is an unfortunate characteristic that those people who peddle this drug for large profits are seldom, if ever, addicts themselves. They know the effects, which are almost indescribable, and yet go on making money out of the torture of other people."

Five-year sentences were passed on four others convicted of being concerned in the plot to supply heroin. They were: Toh How David, 44, aged 22, and Tang Poo Off Hai, aged 21, both students of Heathfield Park, Crickehow, Leonardo Antonio Elarte, aged 34, a Hongkong-born club manager.



Syed Abu Baker: "chief courier"



Toh How David: a London student



Leonardo Elarte: Soho club manager

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Flying Squad chief 'was on payroll of criminal'

By Clive Borrell

A former head of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad and two other senior detectives received bribes in cash and kind from a Soho pornography dealer who put himself outside the law, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

It makes it clear that it is not advocating shorter sentences for hard-core criminals who are guilty of serious offences and present a threat to society and for whom long periods of imprisonment are justifiable on the grounds of public protection.

Mr James Humphreys, said by Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, to be a former prominent criminal in Soho, concerned with pornography, prostitution and drug clubs, will be called to testify today when the trial resumes, to give evidence against the three men.

Counsel said they were "indebting themselves" to this tycoon, who was putting himself outside the law, as a former commander and once head of the Flying Squad, of Bentley Lane, Salford, Kent, John Bryn Legge, aged 37, a suspended detective in possession of a Ministry of Defence, and Alastair David Ingram, aged 43, a former detective inspector, of Arundale Avenue, Hinchley Wood, Surrey, have all pleaded not guilty to a conspiracy to receive bribes from Mr Humphreys. Not all of them face the same charges.

Mr Tudor Price said that between 1971 and 1972 Mr Humphreys, on Mr Humphreys's payroll, receiving about £5,000 in cash and a further £5,000 in kind "so that he could have a friend in the police who could assist him in times of trouble".

The matter first came to light, he said, on February 27, 1972, when the *Sunday People* contained an article alleging that Constable Drury and his wife had spent a holiday with Mr Humphreys and his wife in Cyprus. Mr Drury was alleged to have told senior Yard officers that he went to Cyprus because Mr Humphreys was a good informant and had given information that the train robber, Ronald Biggs, was in hiding there.

So confident was Mr Drury of his relationship with Mr Humphreys, who had served six years in Dartmoor, counsel said, that he sent a postcard to his colleagues at Scotland Yard. It was pinned up on the Flying Squad notice board and became the subject of much comment.

Mr Tudor Price said that Mr Drury was the principal defendant and Mr Ingram a "much lesser figure", who supplied Mr Humphreys with confidential information for which he received monetary and other rewards. Mr Legge owed his position in the dock in large measure to Mr Drury. He confessed to receiving from Mr Humphreys bribes to please Mr Drury.

On the other hand, Mr Humphreys, who had served six years in Dartmoor, counsel said, that he sent a postcard to his colleagues at Scotland Yard. It was pinned up on the Flying Squad notice board and became the subject of much comment.

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Shorter jail terms for many offenders urged

By Marcel Berlins

Legal Correspondent

A strong and unequivocal call for shorter prison sentences for many offenders was made by the Advisory Council on the Penal System in an interim report published today. It says that many jail sentences passed by the courts are longer than they need be either in the interests of society or of the offender.

It makes it clear that it is not advocating shorter sentences for hard-core criminals who are guilty of serious offences and present a threat to society and for whom long periods of imprisonment are justifiable on the grounds of public protection.

Mr Raes, the Home Secretary, has expressed considerable sympathy with the council's views, and has welcomed its proposals. While he has no powers over judges or magistrates, he would not wish to interfere with the judiciary, Mr Raes has "commended" the report to those involved in sentencing.

The council has issued the interim report on its own initiative. In the course of conducting an inquiry into the system of maximum penalties it came to the conclusion that many minor offenders were spending too long in prison, and wanted to propose a remedy urgently.

The council, chaired by Lady Sornon, points out that while the present system of sentencing is based on the principle of the "desert" of the offender, it is not always clear what the "desert" of the offender is, and that the system is often based on the "desert" of the offender.

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which the recommendations referred.

A steadily accumulating volume of research has shown that, using the yardstick of conviction rates, there was a steady tendency to choose between different lengths of custodial sentence. Given that there was no reason to suppose that longer sentences had a greater impact than shorter ones, the general rule which the council urged courts to follow was to stop at the point where a sentence had been decided upon, and consider whether a shorter one would not do just as well.

"Are there not cases of two years' imprisonment where 18 months, or 15, or even less, might safely be passed and sentences of 12 months when six months would do just as well? And for the offender going to prison for the first time, should not even a shorter sentence suffice?"

The effect on the prison system of a reduction in prison sentences could be significant, the report says. In the present economic climate, even a small reduction in the number of prisoners would be a welcome relief to the prison system.

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Vaccination offer to cut flu in Post Office

By Our Health Services Correspondent

More than 400,000 Office workers will be offered vaccination against influenza next autumn after a five-year study has shown that benefits far outweigh the cost.

The study was made by Post Office with the help of the Public Health Service. It found that last autumn about 30 per cent of employees could be expected to take a vaccination offer each year, and the cost to the Post Office would be about £250,000, saving on lost time could be as much as £1m.

In trials between 1971 and 1975 an average of 60,000 workers were offered vaccination each year. Dr Peter Tay, chief medical officer for Post Office, said that the suits were surprisingly cost-effective.

In an office of 100 people offered vaccination, about fewer working days were lost through sickness over six months each year than in an office where no was made.

On the results the Post Office could expect a saving of £120,000 working days a winter if all its employees were vaccinated.

Instructions on the temperature and humidity for the eggs during the week they were kept at the Highland Wildlife Park, Aviemore, were called for by Professor Tom Cade, of Cornell University, New York, a lead authority on the captive breeding of birds of prey.

Mr William Newlands, in charge of the park, said the eggs were in a rotten state, threatened by a forest fire. A parent bird had been driven away and the eggs were left to rot.

Mr Harvey Burton, who I checked off the eggs, said the eggs were in a rotten state, threatened by a forest fire. A parent bird had been driven away and the eggs were left to rot.

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No extra aid, Mr Rodgers tells local authorities

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday summed up his transport White Paper due to be published soon. He will tell local authorities to cut their coats according to their cloth as there will be no additional money from the Government.

He told delegates to the conference of the Institution of Municipal Engineers in Brighton: "You must accept the financial discipline and public debate that characterized our times."

At a press conference later he said: "We are not a Rolls-Royce nation. We have got to make do and mend. We must not plan for the Utopia round the corner because Utopia never comes."

Replying to an appeal by Mr Norman Pritchard, the president, for more money for roads, Mr Rodgers said: "If local authorities believe they have a road crisis they will decide that that is their priority for spending money on."

Group inquiring into back pain invites evidence

The Working Group on Back Pain has invited professional and voluntary organizations with an interest in the treatment of the complaint to submit evidence to it in writing by the end of August.

The working group was appointed by the Department of Health and Social Security last year and started work in November under the chairmanship of Professor A. L. Cochrane to review present provision, advise whether services could be more effectively organized, and to advise on the development of clinics.

Back pain costs the nation seven million working days lost and about £100m in sickness benefit and treatment each year.

Evidence from organizations may be sent to the Joint Secretaries, Working Group on Back Pain, Department of Health and Social Security, Ramhill House, Elephant and Castle, London, SE1 6TE.

Crash dead named

The three men who died in a two-car crash on the Long Ashton by-pass near Bristol on Monday night were named yesterday as Mr William Williams, of Frampton Cotterell, near Bristol, Mr Douglas Hall, of Congresbury, Avon, and Mr Arthur Wright, of Nailsea, Avon.

Rotten Row cycling

Broad Row in Hyde Park, London, is to be a permanent cycle route and cycling will also be allowed along the North Peth on Rotten Row, it was announced in the House of Lords yesterday.

Roman sites protest

The latest report of the Ancient Monuments Board for England expresses concern at cases where local planning authorities granted outline development permission without taking account of the site's archaeological importance.

Two cases named are Alcester Roman town, in Warwickshire, and Corstopium Roman site, at Corbridge, Northumberland.

At Alcester, despite the advice of the ancient monuments Directorate, permission for housing was granted. The Department of the Environment issued an interim preservation notice and order and compensation had to be paid. In Roman times Alcester contained industrial workshops.

At Corbridge, once a Roman workshop, part of the site was threatened by a proposed housing project. The Department of the Environment is now negotiating to buy the site.

The Ancient Monuments Board for England, set up in 1976, advises the Secretary of State on the protection of ancient monuments.

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Whitehaven.

The strength of opposition to plans to build a new type of nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Whitehaven, Cumbria, emerged on the opening day of the public inquiry at Whitehaven yesterday.

The inquiry is expected to last three weeks. Mr Justice Parker told the supporters of the plan and more than fifty organizations and individuals opposing the plan that three basic questions would be answered: Should oxide nuclear fuel from reactors in the United Kingdom be reprocessed at Whitehaven? If the answer was "yes", should the plant be double the size needed for fuel from British reactors in order to reprocess foreign fuel?

Lord Silcock, QC, for British Nuclear Fuels, said the issue was a double one: whether in future the United Kingdom had a fast breeder reactor programme or a predominantly nuclear power system. The second generation of nuclear power stations were in production or being commissioned. Spent fuel would be coming from them and something had to be done with it. Reprocessing that fuel made possible, the

re-use of the uranium and plutonium, adding about 30 to 40 per cent to the power generated from the original uranium ore.

He maintained that reprocessing was the only established method of controlling for several decades radioactive material in spent fuel and provided the basis for the long-term control and ultimate disposal of the waste.

Lord Silcock suggested that Windscale had all the necessary skills and technology for the proposed plant was not novel and the company could draw on its experience and that of its partners in France and Germany. Enrichment of radioactive material from the waste would have no significantly greater impact on the environment than those hitherto.

He accepted risks of plutonium that would come from the oxide plant and the possible proliferation of nuclear weapons. He said denial of reprocessing would achieve nothing. He said that for the long-term safety of the country who had or could develop the technology themselves would place serious pressures on them to reprocess their own fuel. A country determined to develop nuclear weapons could do it whether or not its fuel was reprocessed by Britain.

"One cannot exclude the possibility of evil men seeking enough fissile material to make a crude nuclear device and exploding it, but banning reprocessing would not be terrorism."

Mr John Gildewell, for Cumbria County Council, said the council was generally favourable to the plan, but would support the application, saying it was happy with the safety and environmental standards, but would welcome any improvement of the plant's performance.

The first opponent, for the Isle of Man, was Mr George Dobry, QC. He said: "It cannot yet be generally accepted that the concentration of plutonium-239 and plutonium-240 in the sea near the Windscale discharge pipe is 26 times higher than in the waters of the Pacific Ocean. The plutonium is 2,600 times higher than in the open oceans."

He said that the people of the Isle of Man feared for the general safety of the population in case of accident or sabotage. Civil liberties and personal freedom would be at risk in a society dependent on the strict security which would have to accompany further development of nuclear power. The accumulation of waste discharged into

More plutonium near Windscale than at US test site, inquiry told

The question of giving reasons is mentioned in the board's report for 1976, published yesterday. It shows that last year 54 per cent of prisoners eligible for parole were released. That compared with 8.5 per cent when the scheme began in 1968.

Sir Louis Petch, chairman of the board, said that at any one time last year 2,500 prisoners were on parole, against 17,500 in 1976. Despite the increasing numbers on parole, the number of prisoners having to be

recalled remained steady at around 8 per cent.

On the cases of Miss Anne Mendelsohn and Miss Hilary Creek, who were imprisoned after the Angry Brigade trial, Sir Louis said that the two women were jailed for 10 years. Given good behaviour in prison, they would have been released after six years and eight months. Their cases were examined twice and at the second review, after they had served two years,

Moluccans spurned offers, Dutch MPs hear

Motive of ideology denied in spy case

Key Vatican post for little known diplomat

little interest in Italian politics; and the Vatican cannot be expected in future to be less involved in Italian internal affairs.

At the same time, Mgr Benelli is expected to continue his own deep involvement at the highest effectively although unofficially of the Italian hierarchy.

Considered primarily an administrator, Mgr Caprio is called to face the closing stages of the Pope's reign. He has been chosen to carry out policies that are already well established, rather than making innovations.

His personality is very much an unknown quantity, and he will doubtless be watched with much curiosity.

Looking much younger than his 52 years, Mgr Caprio has a long Vatican experience behind him.

After trying patiently for nearly three weeks for a compromise, the Government decided to use force.

"In the end there was no other way than force. We were sad, we regretted it."

Some of the 5,000 South Moluccans who attended yesterday's funeral of the six terrorists killed by Dutch troops.

aged 22, the only woman in the gang.

A Moluccan source said an examination of the bodies showed one had 300 bullets in it and there were 106 in the girl.

After a service in the Evangelical Church the cortege drove slowly through the Moluccan quarter. Almost every house was flying the red, white, and blue flag.

mythical South Moluccan republic at half mast.

As a Calvinist hymn was sung, the coffins were lowered one by one into a single grave. A long line of mourners then walked past the grave singing Dutch hymns.

Red, white, and pink flowers were thrown onto the coffins.

One mourner said "The Government has created new martyrs, but it can't put us

Few Britons want jobs with Community

staff jobs and those who do often withdraw soon after appointment, according to Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the European Commissioner responsible for staff.

Mr Tugendhat was replying at the European Parliament here today when asked why so few Britons were employed by the EEC.

He said uncertainty over the result of the 1975 referendum on continuing EEC membership had deterred British nationals.

Parliamentary report, page 7

Giscard device for direct poll Bill

cultural device which is sadly out of keeping with the importance of a decision involving the future of European unity and the reputation of France.

But we had no choice in the face of the Gaullist determination to preserve the unity of their parliamentary party by insisting on the adjournment of the debate on the Bill.

The President, General de Gaulle, Estimating the movement of the Cabinet this morning, was careful to place responsibility squarely where it belonged—namely the Gaullists.

"Mindful of the dignity of the National Assembly and the Government," he declared, "the Government cannot deal on a question of national interest."

Asked with the ratification of the European agreement the principle of which was raised publicly in December, 1970 (at the first summit), and which has been the subject of these two years with our partners, then

Defence lawyer withdraws from Milan trial

from Milan: trial

Milan, June 14.—The defence lawyer of Renato Curcio resigned today, less than 24 hours before the trial was due to begin of the leader of the "Red Brigades" in the attempted murder of a policeman.

"I leave, slamming the door on this trial," Signor Giannino Guiso told reporters. "I have not been able to exercise so far the right of preparation of the defence."

He quoted Signor Curcio as saying: "If the law of the state compels me to appoint lawyers, the Red Brigades will suffer a new violation to which they will be able to respond only with acts of violence."

Observers said the resignation appeared to be a legal tactic to delay the trial and to try to portray it as a judicial process entirely in the hands of the

Britain blocks EEC oil crisis plan

the prior approval of the Community for the building of new refineries or the replacement of old ones. Such a scheme has been proposed by the Commission because of refinery overcapacity in the Community.

Dr Mabon also said he felt the UK was treating Britain unfairly by refusing to recognize that the Culham laboratory near Oxford was the best site for the Community's thermonuclear fusion project.

Unlike West Germany, which has a rival site for the project, Britain's Oxford site has not been chosen for any important Community project of this kind.


At a separate meeting of EEC environment ministers, presided over by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, Britain appeared to have been chosen as the centre in the past for its opposition to the imposition of uniform emission limits to reduce

Residential property also on pages 12 and 13

Country property

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OVERSEAS

Commonwealth storm over whether to name President Amin

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Commonwealth leaders, after reaffirming their commitment to human rights, were engaged in a sharp discussion last night in whether Uganda should be named in the communiqué.

The meeting, restricted to heads of government, was conducted in unusual secrecy, with no advisers present. Their task was to approve a statement in the final communiqué, due to be issued this evening. Feeling ran so high at the meeting that the discussion which was supposed to be over in an hour and a half, ran to double that time and will go on again today when a new draft will be presented.

Zambia and Tanzania, which have not concealed their strong disapproval of President Amin, were understood to favour outright condemnation of the Ugandan regime. Most countries believe that to conclude the conference without reference to the purpose and standing of the Commonwealth itself.

They cited the association's declaration of principles, agreed in 1971: "We believe in the liberty of the individual, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, creed or political belief. We therefore strive to promote in each of our countries those representative institutions and guarantees for personal freedom under the laws that are our common heritage."

Nigeria made the point, while not defending President Amin's conduct, that it would have been preferable for him to put his own case at the conference. It was not quite isolated but very much a lone voice putting its view.

The one or two others others that took this view maintained that the bulk of the Commonwealth conference is a different and quite separate matter from the internal affairs of a member country which is not, as it happens, represented at the meeting.

British opposition to President Amin has been consistently strong. Extensive diplomatic efforts to dissuade the Ugandan leader from setting foot in this country continued this week. Mr. Callaghan added that the common theme of the Commonwealth discussions echoed the concern of the recent London summit on the interdependence of the developed and the developing world.

Kampala radio silent on 'spy'

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, June 14
Uganda radio has made no reference for three days to Mr. Robert Scamlon, the British-born engineer who was arrested last week for alleged spying, and who was said by President Amin to be liable to execution by firing squad.

There has been no confirmation from British and other sources in Uganda of reports, circulated by Agence France Presse, that Mr. Scamlon was killed in a Kampala prison at the weekend. A Nairobi newspaper, the Daily Nation, carried an anonymous telephone call last Friday, claiming to be from Kampala, and saying that Mr. Scamlon was already dead.

Muldoon pledge to act on apartheid sport links

Continued from page 1

statements pledged member governments "vigorously to combat the evil of apartheid by withholding any form of support for, and by taking every practical step to discourage, contact or competition by their nationals with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa or any other country where sports are organized on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin."

The statement went some way towards the "white" position by acknowledging that it was for each government to determine in accordance with its laws the methods by which it might best discharge these commitments. (New Zealand, Britain and Canada do not refuse passports to travelling players or visas to visiting sportsmen).

The heads of government welcomed the meeting's "unanimous belief" that in the light of their consultations there were unlikely to be future sporting contacts of any significance between Commonwealth countries or their nationals and South Africa while that country continues to practice "the detestable policy of apartheid".

Beigin coalition ready next week

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, June 14

With Professor Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change deciding early this morning against joining a Likud government, Mr. Beigin is proceeding to form a narrow coalition of his Likud group and religious parties. He will present it to the Knesset on Monday.

A spokesman for Mr. Beigin said that the Cabinet will comprise nine ministers represent-

Uganda itself, to preserve the friendships that have grown up in the past and, even more important, to keep the lines open for the future when Uganda may need Commonwealth help again.

Two main issues were understood to be dominating the heads of government discussion on Rhodesia: the extension of oil supplies from South Africa and the role of the Rhodesian Army in any constitutional settlement.

Mr. Aboud Jumbe, the Tanzanian Vice-President, has said that African countries could support the British initiative, but only on the assumption that Britain intended to dismantle the Army which underwrites the Smith regime.

Although Mr. Jumbe, deputising for President Nyerere, and others might prefer a strong statement on the disbanding of the Army as a pre-condition of any settlement, the British side has to consider the likely effect of such a demand on negotiations.

British support of African aspirations for an independent Zimbabwe is not in question, but Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has said he believes his greatest problem is to gain the backing of the white population for his constitutional proposals. The risk is that all-out demands by the Commonwealth for the army's immediate disbanding will be counterproductive.

Earlier at the conference Tanzania posed the question whether the British Government guarantees for personal freedom under the laws that are our common heritage.

Mr. Callaghan gave a spirited defence of Britain's aid effort while the economic discussions concluded yesterday. The Prime Minister pointed out that British aid this year was increasing by £100m to £679m. This was almost entirely in grants not loans and two thirds would be going to the poorest countries.

Mr. Callaghan added that the common theme of the Commonwealth discussions echoed the concern of the recent London summit on the interdependence of the developed and the developing world.

Injunction on Uganda tea funds

By Michael Horsnell

An injunction preventing the Ugandan Government from disposing of the proceeds of Uganda tea sold recently in London was granted in the High Court yesterday.

The injunction was sought by a British company that has never received compensation for the nationalization of its tea estates worth £5m to £6m in 1972.

The Uganda Company (Holdings) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Masefield Group, which was granted an ex parte injunction by the High Court on May 30, was yesterday granted an extension of the injunction until trial or order.

At his press conference Mr. Muldoon, looking weary and far from triumphant, pointed out that there had in fact been no significant sporting contacts between New Zealand and South Africa since the 1975 tour. Indeed, he said, eight prospective engagements had been cancelled. All that had been achieved by quiet but effective discouragement.

"We have been taking practical steps for some considerable time and this was readily appreciated and recognized," he said. New Zealand had meanwhile become more aware of the very intense feeling which the issue aroused in other parts of the world.

Asked whether he thought there was enough for the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which has been coordinating black African sports policy, Mr. Muldoon said he was not expert. But Nigeria and Tanzania, both prominent OAU members, had specifically subscribed to it (and helped draft the statement) and Dr. Kaunda, the Zambian President, had approved it.

"It might be a reasonable guess that others will go along with it," he said.

ing Likud, two from the National Religious Party (NRP) and Mr. Moshe Dayan, who was elected as a Labour candidate but is now an independent. Three Cabinet portfolios are to be held in reserve for two or three months in the hope that the DMC may reconsider its decision.

Another party source said when the Likud executive meets on Thursday there will be a proposal to consider the DMC's decision final and to distribute the portfolios.

Conference Notebook by Michael Leapman

Delegates harangue the press for a place in the history books

As the Commonwealth conference nears its close, reporters suffer from a glut of engagements. Numerous delegates and officials seek to put on record their version of events before it is too late. The fact of having scores of influential correspondents hanging around the press centre during the conference sessions with very little to do, and a well-equipped press conference room to harangue them in, proves an irresistible temptation.

Yesterday we began with Alastair McIntyre, who led a group of Commonwealth experts charged by the last conference with producing a report containing proposals for bridging the rich-poor gap in the context of the world's economic order. The report recommended "a fundamental transformation of the world's socio-economic structure" (what else?).

What we needed, he said, was action. We were "moving from the level of general analysis to the level of fine print". As part of that development, this conference is expected to establish a task force to tackle the problem.

They can set up all the task forces they like and make as many recommendations as they like, but in plain terms, a new international economic order means making the developed countries pay more for goods from the developing countries. It is caused by the increase in the price of a single commodity, coffee, shows how politically unrealistic it is to expect the governments of the developed countries, anxious for restoration, to agree to any such thing.

On the dot of noon, we left Mr. McIntyre in mid-sentence to rush to something more down-to-earth. Robert Muldoon was explaining why he had submitted the report on the economic order of the world, which was a condemnation of sporting links with South Africa.

It was difficult for him. He began by announcing that New Zealand Universities rugby team had just beaten the British Lions by an impressive margin, and settled down to try to explain to the New Zealand press that his policy had not fundamentally altered, and to Afro-Asian reporters that it had.

At the risk of alienating his liberal New Zealand friends, I have to say that he acquitted himself splendidly. I particularly approved of the way he brushed aside the question of who sought to expose their own views on the question.

"It's a matter of indifference to me what your opinion is," he told one indigenous Nigerian. "I'm here to consult with heads of government, not with journalists."

It happened that Mr. Muldoon was the first man I met at my next engagement, a lunch given by diplomatic correspondents for heads of delegation. I put it to him that he had been a bit robust with his questions, and he said that it was nothing compared with how he sometimes behaved at home.

Press conferences, he said, were simply for the purpose of eliciting information, not for peddling a prejudice. He agreed, too, with my views on the New Economic Order. "We have too many conferences on it," he said. "All we do is have conferences, let's have good food and drink and all that, but it doesn't get us very far."

The lunch was on the balcony of the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington, with 30 small round tables surrounding the main floor area. One senior delegate was assigned to each table and it was my good fortune to be seated next to his portly and amiable highness, Prince Turipeleaka, Prime Minister of Tonga.

After a friendly conversation with a German reporter on his other side, who had commended his roll, he told me that he had contributed little to the discussions at the conference, but he did believe that people should say anything when they have nothing important to say, he declared.

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, June 14
A large pall of dirty, black smog hangs over Soweto these mornings. It is caused by the tons of thousands of wood and coal fires which the township's million or so inhabitants keep alight to protect them from the cold winter nights.

The mood of the people is both sombre and tense. Most of the secondary schools have been closed for a week because the students are staying away. Instead the youngsters mill around the streets in groups, discussing this week's commemoration of the first anniversary of the Soweto uprising of the weekend arrests of their leaders by the police.

Every so often police vans go rushing past, their windows protected by thick wire mesh against stones or other missiles. Four police vehicles and a number of public and private cars were damaged in more than a dozen incidents today. The police have been equipped with Perspex shields and crash helmets which make them look like Roman centurions.

Some of their vehicles have been fitted with special tear gas dispensers which the local press has dubbed "tear gas machines". It is hoped these devices will dissuade the police from reaching for their guns with quite the alacrity they showed last June.

A reporter and a photographer from The World newspaper were detained by black police during the day.

The police say they want to avoid a confrontation with the students, but will take firm action in the event of violence. For its part, the Soweto Students' Representative Council has urged its supporters to do nothing that would provoke police action. Neither group

seems really to trust the other, however.

The police, black and white, eye the students suspiciously through the grille windows of their vehicles. The students defiantly jeer and give black power salutes.

There have been a number of violent incidents during the past few days, but none so far involving serious injury. This afternoon the police used tear gas to break up crowds of students who had gathered outside Orlando high school.

Several arrests were made. Tear gas was also used to disperse students who attacked a car in the police station. On the surface, at least, some of the wounds caused by last year's unrest seem to be beginning to heal. In the Dube area of central Soweto a brand new Barclays Bank building has sprung up beside the charred remains of the prefabricated structure that was burnt out last year. At Jaburu, further to the west, repairs are being carried out on the bullet-riddled and smoke-blackened classrooms of Morris Isaacson school.

Many of the liquor stores that were attacked last year in protest against the sale of alcohol being used to help finance Soweto's running costs have been rebuilt. The West Rand Board, which administers Soweto, badly needs the revenue from liquor sales.

However the board's own administrative offices, which were also singled out for attack because they represented white authority and domination, have not been repaired.

The sense of anger, resentment and humiliation among the township's residents, which erupted after June 16 last year, has not been assuaged, however. If anything, these feelings have become more deeply felt as

blacks wait for the white Government to accept that their manifold grievances are genuine.

There is little the Government has done during the past year to make blacks believe it is planning to introduce social reforms, let alone the political changes they wish to see. The Government did back down over use of Africanists in schools, which started last year's unrest. That at least was a victory for the students.

The Government has introduced a home-ownership scheme and some new measures concerning school books and school attendance. It has also announced its intention to replace the now defunct and totally discredited Urban Bantu Council with a proposed "community council", but all this does not amount to very much.

Nothing really has been achieved as a result of last year's catastrophe. Mr. Willie Kambule, principal of Orlando high school, says he has been promised and perhaps a slight change of attitude on behalf of the Government, but this is not enough to dampen the explosive sort of situation Soweto has reached.

Mr. Percy Qobusa, editor of the black newspaper The World, complains that there has been plenty of talk among whites about change but little action.

Hardly a family in Soweto did not have a friend or relative who was killed or wounded during the rioting. Many parents saw their children shot at or arrested and often physically maltreated. They are now asking whether this has all been in vain.

Bishop Manes Buthelezi, chairman of the black parents' association, believes much has been achieved on the black side. For a start black people

have become more politically conscious. They have also been made aware of the latent power which a united black population could wield. But ultimately, the Soweto uprising showed that the spark of a people could eventually triumph over physical force.

The police had the guns, but the students had the spirit and determination in support of a just cause are more powerful weapons than a gaily conscience backed by the instruments of power.

Even now, after six months of relative calm, the students rumour the dominant force in the township, capable of bringing about the collapse of the local Urban Bantu Council or mustering thousands of students on the streets at a few hours' notice.

For a group of people who are widely portrayed as heroes, they are a surprisingly moody bunch. The boys, some of them well into their 20s, wear striped blazers and school ties; the girls are dressed in black gym slips and coloured berets. To talk to few of them are as militant as their reputations.

Mr. Jabu Mankubalo, who became chairman of the SSR after last weekend's detention of Mr. Sediba Montsisi, the organization's leader, insists that they are not really a political body. The council's main objective remains the scrapping of the Bantu education system. Like Mr. Montsisi before him, he emphasizes the need to avoid violence.

The students are respected not only because they are seen to have moral right on their side, but because they have been doing what their parents had only been talking about for years", Mr. Qobusa says.



Mr. Muldoon arriving at Lancaster House yesterday.

I joked that if everyone had kept to that principle, the conference would have ended in half the time, but he diplomatically declined to agree. He said his main object was to ensure that his country should continue to find markets for its crops.

Formal speeches at the end were brief. James Callaghan was in a jolly mood, saying how little he thought of reporters, but saying it in the nicest possible way.

Mr Laker cautious on Skytrain approval

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

The decision by President Carter to allow a start to the Skytrain air service across the North Atlantic comes after a six-year campaign by Mr. F. A. "Freddie" Laker to have his revolutionary plan for cheap, walk-on air transport accepted in both London and Washington.

Mr. Laker was uncharacteristically silent yesterday on the President's ruling, preferring to study it before making his views known at a press conference this morning at his base at Gatwick, the second London airport.

He was apparently concerned by the one-year trial period specified by the President, and also by the fact that at least two United States charter airlines have applied for permission to operate similar services between New York and London.

President Carter also ruled that 60 days must pass before Skytrain could begin so that American airlines were able to put their cases for similar service to the United States Civil Aeronautics Board. This means that the Laker Skytrain probably will operate its maiden services by the end of September or early October.

A single fare would be £59 from London to New York, while a single from New York to London would be £80. Laker will probably ask the British Civil Aviation Authority for an increase soon to keep up with inflation.

This makes a return ticket about the same price as advance booking charter fares on British Airways or any other major airline. But while ABC tickets must be booked two months in advance, passengers would be able to go to Stanstead airport, London, on the morning of the Skytrain flight, and assuming there was room, walk on board, paying for their seat after take-off.

Meals, drinks, films and entertainment would, cost extra, and passengers bringing their own food would not be discouraged. "They can eat fish and chips on board if they like," Mr. Laker has said.

Feasibility from the President's side for similar service came within hours of the decision by the New York Appeal Court to ban the premium-fare Concorde from landing in New York.

Several years ago, Mr. Laker embarked on a campaign by making public his plan to operate Concorde profitably—a plan that was never taken up. But by then world aviation had become used to him acting the enforcer, a trait repeatedly exercised during the long campaign to have Skytrain accepted.

Fresh setback for Concorde in New York court

From Peter Strufford

New York, June 14

The Federal Court of Appeals in New York today struck down a lower court decision which had cleared the way for Concorde landings at Kennedy airport. But it did so in a way which left open the possibility that the ban on the Concorde might still be lifted.

The appeal court, which decided the lower court to hold a hearing on the question whether the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates Kennedy, had treated the Concorde fairly, and

reasonably in imposing its ban for the past 13 months.

"Should the port authority's action be found arbitrary and capricious, the question would be raised concerning its compatibility with American treaty arrangements," the Court of Appeals said.

Today's decision marks one further step in the long legal battle over Concorde landings at New York. But it is far from the last.

The main finding in today's decision was that the port authority did have the right to prevent Concorde landings at Kennedy.

Gunmen 'trained in Angola'

From Our Correspondent

Suva, June 14

Three South African students have been shot dead by three Angolans who killed two whites in Johannesburg yesterday were trained in Angola and returned to South Africa through Mozambique.

Mr. James Kruger, the Justice Minister, said in a report to Parliament on the latest case of students who were shot dead by three Angolans, that the students had been "more offensive material and a large number of communist pamphlets" relating to unrest in Johannesburg's black township of Soweto. Three South African students, believed to have been made in Czechoslovakia, and two hand grenades had already been found at the scene.

"It appears the people were trained in Luanda and that they were sent to Johannesburg to find a group of whites having their mid-morning tea break."

Mr. Kruger told the House of Assembly that the incident began at 11 am when three black men suspected of carrying firearms were confronted by members of the public who chased them down the street.

After firing several shots outside the garage at their pursuers, Mr. Kruger said, the Angolans "moved into the garage, where one of them opened fire: four whites men sitting in their car on the right were killed instantly, while another was seriously wounded and subsequently died in hospital."

Mr. Kruger said the case was a "black township near Pretoria."

The whites were killed when the three Angolans entered a department store, where they found a group of whites having their mid-morning tea break.

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British help for economy of Turkish Cyprus

From Robert Fisk

Nicosia, June 14

Confidential export figures produced by the Turkish Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Nicosia suggest that Britain is playing a large part in maintaining the economy of the self-proclaimed "federated" state in north Cyprus.

According to the figures shown to me by official sources in the Turkish Cypriot Administration, the largest export item is the chief export item for Turkish Cyprus, account for 33.1 per cent of all exports last year.

This is more than 3 per cent higher than sales to Turkey which might have been expected to provide the largest market. According to officials in the Turkish Cypriot Administration has hitherto refused from giving any details of economy for fear that the Greek Cypriot Government would attempt to restrict its export action against shipping companies doing business with Turkish Cyprus.

Two weeks ago, the Greek Cypriots released from jail Danish sea captain imprisoned for sailing into the Turkish-controlled port of Famagusta. There is no way of checking the accuracy of the Turkish figures, although Greek Cypriot Government undoubtedly study them.

According to ministry papers here, British last year imported 10,000 tons of oranges, 3,327 tons of lemons, and 4,534 tons of grapefruit. Almost the entire fruit ports were sent directly by to Britain from Turkish Cyprus, and according to sources in the Turkish Cypriot Administration, which openly gave Famagusta as their port of origin, 1 British fruit imports are worth more than £1.7 million.

Holland was Turkish Cyprus's third largest trading partner after Britain and Turkey. The Turkish Cypriot authorities appear to be putting special emphasis this year their exhibition at the 12th International Fruit and Vegetable Fair, which is held in London.

They hope to encourage Arab buyers for their fruit and textile ports.

General Lamusse released but charges remain

From Our Correspondent

Suva, June 14

An appeal court last night ordered the release of General Alejandro Lamusse, former president of Argentina, a former Defence Minister, a Navy and Air Force colonel, who was arrested in 1973-74 on charges of human rights violations. He spent 42 days in jail.

The four men were arrested on May 4 by order of a military court charged them with abuse of public office while considered in awarding contracts to an aluminium plant in 1971.

The appeals court studied the case for three weeks before ordering General Lamusse and his former colleagues to be released from preventive detention. It ordered the investigation into the charges against him to continue and did not put the charges against the four men.

25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday, June 14, 1952

Lafayette's sword

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, June 13.—M. Pleven, French Minister of National Affairs, announced today that the sword of Lafayette, which was captured by the British in 1777, was to be returned to France.

The sword, which was captured by the British in 1777, was to be returned to France. The sword was captured by the British in 1777, and was to be returned to France.

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Government remain committed to devolution: legislation deferred until next session

Mr. Foot—What people in Scotland should take notice of is that all the money they have for the day caught up to do was to present us with a Bill which they knew would not have the faintest chance of getting through the House and was not a serious proposal. It was a propaganda exercise.

What we are preparing is a Bill which can go through the Commons, which encourages the majority with the House to take into account the criticism made and the vote that we were unable to get in a lame-duck motion.

However much he needs to raise the bar, he is not so convinced that the people in Scotland that we are not in earnest. We are.

the Treasury (Heywood and Rooker, Lab.) said it would be wary of increasing personal tax effort and/or losing substantial amounts of revenue when they were in the middle of serious discussions of earnings next year.

Mr Rooker said that he would be prepared to see the possible 2 per cent reduction in taxation forego-

supported it

called "consent," but he called it "seduction by bribery" and there were quite a few cases where he knew this had occurred.

The Countess of Loudoun said some people might say that she was a lesbian, but she said that was a homosexual allusion. It involved corruption and perversion of others.

The Bishop of Norwich said the Bill was not a good one, but Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State, Home Office, said because of the need to study the subject of sexual offences, the law relating to the age of consent was being considered by the Home Secretary's Criminal Law Revision Committee and the policy advisory committee on sexual offences in the context of a wider review of sexual offences.

He understood the policy better

wait until these committees had reported before going further to decriminalize homosexual acts. It was an important constitutional principle, the importance of which was never divided. It was not a simple question. It should not be the subject of a hasty decision without the support of the full report of a high-powered committee.

He would urge the Earl of Arran to withdraw his Bill today, if he did not he (Lord Harris) would be unable to support it.

The amendment rejecting the Bill was carried by 146 votes in 25-majority, 121.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill passed its committee stage. The Import of Live Fish (Scotland) Bill passed its committee stage and the Licensing (Amendment) Bill was in its second time.

House adjourned, 9.57 am.

called "consent" but he called it
"seduction by bribery" and there
were quite a few cases where the
woman had acquiesced.

The Countess of Loudoun said some might be "born homosexuals," but they could not be a homosexual alone. It involved corruption and perversion of others.

The Bishop of Norwich said the Bill was illiberal and cruel.

Lord Hailsham, the Minister of State, Home Office, said because of the need to study the question of sexual offences, the law relating to the age of consent was to be considered by the Home Secretary's Criminal Law Revision Committee and the policy advisory committee on sexual offences in the context of a wider review of sexual offences.

He understood the policy ad-

His view was that they should wait until these committees had reported before going further to declassify homosexual acts. He said that the subject was of great importance where views were divided. It was not a simple question. It should not be the subject of a hasty decision without the support of the full report of the

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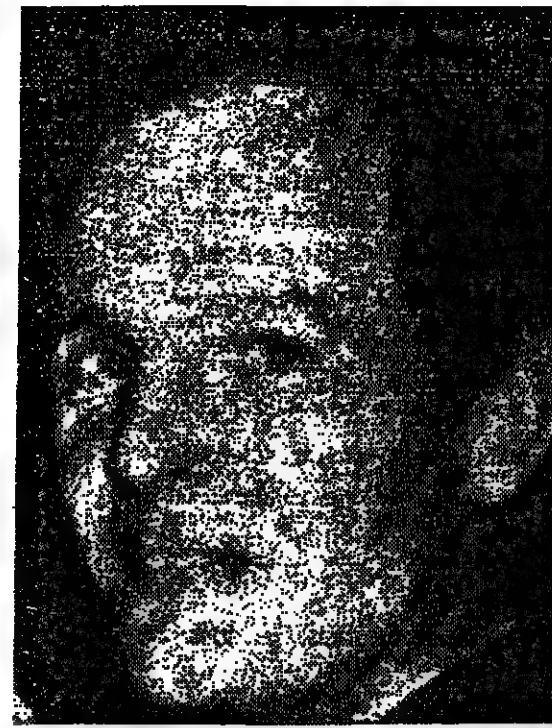
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His political extremism was mixed with a passion for acting

The 'much loved Cambridge don' in the Philby affair



Burgess, Philby and Maclean: now the man who possibly guided them at Cambridge.

News of the doubts attached to the name of Donald Howard Beves in security circles since the early 1950s will come as a severe shock to the Cambridge generations who knew him. For once the cliché of "a much loved don" is not misplaced. The thought of him as possibly the man who guided Philby, Burgess and Maclean in the early years of their treachery will be hard to bear.

A delicious, stimulating companion, touring the city in whichever Rolls-Royce or Bentley he owned at the time, he became one of those "belles figures" the ancient universities delight to cherish. He read one of the lessons during the celebrated Christmas Eve carol service in King's Chapel and, incongruous in halala and gloves, his large frame kept goal in the annual soccer match between the choristers and fellows.

Born on March 6, 1896, the son of a prosperous Brighton timber merchant, he enjoyed the comfort of private means throughout his life. Donald Beves was educated at Rugby and won a classical scholarship to King's College. His arrival at Cambridge was delayed by service in the trenches during the First World War with the Rifle Brigade. The experience left him permanently scarred. As an undergraduate and a young

don, he would wake up screaming in the night.

Beves finally went up to Cambridge in 1919, played rugby, took a first in Classics and a second in French and Spanish. He swiftly made his mark as an undergraduate actor.

On taking his degree, he became a Clerk of the House of Commons in 1922. In his leisure time he prepared a thesis on "The Holy Grail in Early French Poetry" which won him a fellowship at his old college in 1924.

In 1930, the Tutor of King's, A. F. R. Wollaston, was shot dead by an undergraduate. At the early age of 34, Donald Beves assumed the job and held it for 16 years. He was vice-Provost of King's 1946-51.

For all his theatricality and the passion with which he inspired Cambridge acting for 35 years, Beves was in many ways a conventional don in outward appearance, with mildly conservative public views and an easygoing manner. He kept the political extremism which the MIS investigation is thought to have discovered in him deeply concealed, aided, no doubt, by his consummate skills as an actor.

His position as a great cultivator of youth placed him admirably for the distasteful activities ascribed to

him. Not much of an academic, though he was a translator of Rabelais, he contrived to be an exemplary supervisor. He had a fine taste in wine, entertained well and invited all his pupils to dine at least once a year.

How Philby, Burgess and Maclean came into his orbit is not known. Beves was not a member of the Apostles, the secret society of dons and undergraduates from King's and Trinity to which Keynes belonged and Burgess joined in 1932. His friends remember him as neither "Homintern" nor "Comintern", the shorthand used to describe the two strains of fashionable Cambridge life in the 1930s.

Donald Beves was that rare individual a man accepted easily by both the aesthetes and the hearties. He inspired an affectionate couplet from the latter:

"Beves, heaves, and heaves, Beer, I fear!"

Beves never married and lived the life of a bachelor don in King's. With Mrs Camille "Pop" Prior, the widow of Oliver Prior, the pre-war Professor of French who had acted as Beves's patron in the modern language's faculty, he was the life and soul of a wide social circle in

Cambridge around the acting world. They were devoted to each other.

The atmosphere of Mrs Prior's salon at 8 Scroope Street, where Beves spent a great deal of his time, in the years after the Second World War is captured in James Watson's *The Double Helix*. Watson described it as a "high class boarding house" into which he was intent on moving.

"The food at Pop's would offer no improvement over hall, but the French girls who came to Cambridge to improve their English were another matter. A seat at Pop's dinner table, however, could not be asked for directly. Instead . . . the best tactic for getting a foot in the door was to commence French lessons with Pop."

If I suited Pop's fancy, I might be invited to one of her sherry parties and meet her current crop of foreign girls.

Donald Beves died on July 6, 1961, aged 65, and was widely mourned. He left 250 pieces of his magnificent collection of glass to the Fitzwilliam Museum, £5,000, his books and his plate to King's College.

This week *The Times Saturday Review* features the late Tom Driberg's fascinating recollections of a visit to Guy Burgess in Moscow.

Peter Hennessy

A misread and misunderstood agreement

What the Helsinki declaration was really all about

The Final Act

is a vast, complex and finely balanced package

conceding very few of the points the Soviet Union

hoped to gain

Today in Belgrade officials from 35 states gathered to start the long process of reviewing the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was signed two years ago in Helsinki by the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada, and all the states of east and west Europe except Albania.

First they will try to agree on procedures which could take several weeks at least. Then they must fix a date for the main conference. This could start in early October and finish by the end of the year, but there are many differences between East and West, and some within the western alliance, so nothing can be predicted with much confidence except that a frustrating time will be had by all.

Public interest in the conference has grown a lot since Helsinki, largely because Soviet and east European dissidents have been invoking the agreement as a defence of human rights, but misconceptions and misinterpretations still abound. In fact, few if any international agreements can have been as widely misunderstood as this one.

When it was signed, many westerners mistakenly thought it was a sell-out to the Russians. Others dismissed it as a collection of windy declarations signifying nothing, but a waste of time. The Americans were not much interested. A few optimists said it marked the dawning of a new era of détente. Harold Wilson said it made the Congress of Vienna look like a tea party. Now the optimists are disappointed, while some of the people who were quickest to denounce it have become the most vociferous in demanding its implementation because they have found it contains cudgels with which to beat the Russians. Meanwhile the Americans have become so enthusiastic that Europeans worry they may look the best too much.

Most of the early misunderstandings could have been avoided if people had read the text, or if they had not been taken in by Soviet attempts to conceal a diplomatic setback by claiming it as a success and by talking as if rejected Soviet drafts had in fact been included.

The fact is that the Final Act is a vast, complex, and finely balanced package conceding very few of the points the Soviet Union most hoped to gain. It does not sanctify Soviet hegemony over eastern Europe. It does not freeze the frontiers of Europe. It does not require the signature of the provinces of the Final Act and of the tasks defined by the

Conference as well as in context of the questions raised by the latter, on deepening of their mutual relations, the improvement of security and the development of cooperation in Europe, and development of the process of détente in the future.

The enterprise suffered from having to reconcile two different concepts of détente. The Russians want a protective shield against a possible peace treaty sanctifying the results of second World War. The West insisted that détente is a lower barrier and open freer contacts between east and west Europe. By the time texts emerged after nearly two years of negotiation, the term concept had largely vanished. The Soviet Union, given way all along the line, to get the conference.

The texts now say "frontiers can be changed peacefully by mutual consent". The principle of self-determination is recognized. Individual rights are balanced against the rights of states. Elastic phrases about respecting national "sovereignty" have vanished. So have additional restrictions on immigration. There is no reference to the Soviet doctrine of peaceful coexistence. Nor do the principles of behaviour apply only to relations between states with different social systems as the Soviet Union originally proposed, since this would have meant they did not apply, for instance, to relations between Russia and Czechoslovakia. They apply to everyone, have even been mentioned in defence of Concorde's land rights in the United States.

Principle VII contains a statement that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure development of friendly relations and cooperation among nations. This is the most formal justification for discussing human rights in the context of détente. The Russians reply by quoting Principle I, which states that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is a point beyond which no words do not support the interpretation and in any case all principles are stated to be of primary importance. None can take precedence over another.

The texts, therefore, represent a considerable and undecipherable diplomatic success for the West. But what have they actually achieved? I will discuss this in another article tomorrow.

Richard Dav

Bernard Levin

A lethal dose, but be sure Labour will swallow it whole

I was saying yesterday that it is no use relying on Mr Callaghan to stop the Labour Party falling into the hands of people whose ultimate aim is the destruction of democracy. But the problem is even worse than that, as the two party reports published even as I was writing the words make starkly clear. They have been widely reported, and I need not go into great detail; but they can be usefully summarized by quoting some headlines that appeared over the stories in question. The proposals concerning the method of electing the leader of the Labour Party (one is that the method should remain as it is, with the choice confined to MPs, the second is that the election should be decided by the party conference, the third that the decision should be made by an electoral college in which the MPs would be in a fairly small minority) appeared in the *Sunday Express* under the headline "Benn and the Left bid for power".

No doubt, the committee which drew up the proposals was firmly in the hands of the left, and naturally wish to improve their chances of capturing the leadership. As it happens (the point was made in this newspaper's leading article yesterday), the party conference is becoming slightly less reliable from the left's point of view, but only slightly; for the immediately foreseeable future a leadership election confined to the conference would

be very likely to result in the choice of the left's candidate—certainly very much more likely than that the PLP would so vote. And the electoral college proposed, with its weighting in favour of the unions and constituency parties, would very probably produce the same result.

The implications are obvious; they are not, however, my concern today. Before saying what is, let me refer to the other story—the one about the "draft manifesto" before the NEC. This has now been reduced in status to "a campaign document", and is to be redrafted, as it stood, and probably as it emerged too, it would involve taking the Labour Party into a position from which it could only move in the direction of a totally Marxist state. No doubt that was the idea, and no doubt the question of the increasingly totalitarian powers that would be required to maintain a state based on such principles can be left until later. Again, the implications are obvious; but again, I want today to consider a rather different point, suggested by the main front-page headline in this newspaper on Monday, over the story of the proposed programme, which was "State powers demand in draft manifesto may divide Labour".

On the whole, I think it is unlikely that the Labour Party is about to abandon its present system of confining the choice of its leader to those men and women who have

All will loyally abide by a party manifesto which would lead to the ruin of our democracy

been elected to Parliament; on the whole, I think it is also unlikely that the party is about to endorse a programme that would involve the socialization of Britain. I wish I could put it more strongly than that, and say that neither proposal stands the smallest chance of being accepted, but unfortunately I cannot; the present leadership (I do not simply mean its leader) of the Labour Party is such that no guarantee can be given. Certainly it is already virtually impossible to conceive of the resistance to these proposals being based on grounds of principle; it will be couched in terms of tactics and of electoral dangers, and those resisting the suggestions will from the outset be seeking a compromise that will satisfy those putting the suggestions forward.

Which brings me to the point. The two stories I have discussed were both written in terms of the

split they would cause in the Labour Party. Rank, for instance, to the *Sunday Express* report of the leadership proposals: "...drive a wedge between Labour MPs and the rest of the Party . . . a spectacular row . . . party will be plunged into crisis . . . not a shred of doubt that the outcome will split the Labour Party . . . And now attend to the manifesto story in *The Times*: "...dispute between the Government and the Labour Party's National Executive Committee . . . stage is therefore being set for a battle . . ."

And I have to ask: what reason have we to suppose that those in the Labour Party who reject these proposals, who know what they are, and who know why they were put forward, will make it clear that the proposals are unacceptable on principle, and will not become less

so if they are adopted as official party policy?

In case there is still room for the point to be missed, let me remove any possible ambiguity. How many Labour Ministers or MPs, among those who regard the proposals not merely as electorally unwise but fundamentally libidinous, will resign from the party if, having fought against the plans, they nevertheless find themselves obliged to defend them because they have been accepted as part of Labour's programme?

The answer, that with the exception of Mr Prentice, who has already ceased, to all intents, to be a member of the Labour Party, none will refuse to swallow such a lethal dose. All will loyally abide by a party manifesto which would lead to the ruin of our democracy, and all will acquiesce in the adoption of a method of electing the party's leader designed to ensure the election of a candidate willing to preside over this ruin.

One or two may say now that they would not accept such proposals and would leave the party if it decided to follow that road, but they will give such a pledge in a Whistonian spirit; feeling that the proposals will not be accepted exactly as they now stand, the moderates will always be able to rely later on the changes in small print to get them out of any serious consequences of their momentary rush of courage to the head. But

that will be the full extent of the resistance.

In discussion, of course, the moderates will fight vigorously against the proposals, even on principle. At ministerial meetings, for instance, I am sure that Mrs Williams will strongly oppose them; she may well do so in public speeches. But the motto of the Labour moderates is *fortiter in modo, suaviter in re*; the economic proposals become part of the Labour election manifesto, and will be obliged to defend them on the hustings, and if the party should be in a position to enact the programme, she may well have to speak in its favour, if called upon to do so, in the House of Commons, and certainly vote for it in the election. In the meantime, and similarly, if the leadership election rules are changed, and Mr Benn or Mr Foot—or Mr Mikardo, for that matter, or even Miss Joan Maynard—should then be elected leader, I fear she will announce that the party is more important than personal differences, and that she will therefore be staying in it.

I single out Mrs Williams, though my comments apply to all her moderate colleagues, because she is the limit case. If she, with her strength of character and conviction, is prepared to compromise, we can hardly expect Mr Healey or Dr Owen or Mr Mason or Mr Rees

to stand firm. I may, of course, be asked why I am so sure that Mrs Williams is prepared to compromise, to which I reply that she, compared with the rest of the Labour moderates, has already compromised on every move made in favour of her party, and no longer feel obliged to give it the benefit of the doubt; the only way she can demonstrate it is by a vote beyond which she will compromise no more, and prove that she is as honest, democratic and principled as she widely supposed to be.

I seem to remember having written much the same things about Roy Jenkins, and even about Callaghan; no doubt a couple years from now I shall be writing about Mr Weldon, say, or Macdonald, if Mrs Williams has by then been written off as representing the last hopes of moderation within the Labour Party. At that, it will hardly be necessary and even if it is it will probably be permissible, to speak in praise about the totalitarianism of the Labour Party. But for moment it is both necessary and permissible, whence my words today, and for that matter yesterday, I confidently expect my words to be read with averted eyes, as further turn to be taken in course down the Labour Party ever-descending spiral to tyranny. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1977

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

When GBS clipped the wings of rumour

On Mar 20, 1898, George Bernard Shaw wrote a "very private" missive to an impresario called Hecht, denying rumours of his impending marriage to Charlotte Frances Payne-Townshend.

"If you can catch that little bird," he wrote, "tie his beak up tight. . . Meanwhile I shall do nothing but shake my head. . . If ever I get married it will have to be done very secretly." These letters and notes, to Hecht, which have not been published, make fascinating reading. They are in the private collection of Hecht's granddaughter, Madame Audley, who has just opened in *The Glass Menagerie* at all places, the Sir's Theatre in London.

A letter dated August 28, 1896, shows that things do not change much. "The fact is," Shaw writes, "that there is hardly an actor-manager in London who is not sitting tightly on some play that he will neither produce himself nor let anyone else produce."

Unfortunately, there is this

peculiarity about theatrical business—that managers, when they are actors, will refuse all offers and disregard all interests sooner than allow a good part or a good play to get into the hands of a professional rival."

Three years later, Shaw talks of his new play (*Caesar and Cleopatra*) which he had written for Forbes Robertson and Mrs Patrick Campbell—"a magnificent, recklessly expensive play." The trouble was that "Forbes has no theatre and no money. Macbeth having cleaned him out."

Semaphorism
Normally, I would not devote much space to political aphorisms from Yugoslavia; so many are pouring out of every other country, too. But there is a particular relevance about the following selection because EEC diplomats are now meeting in Belgrade to prepare the Helsinki review conference.

The aphorisms are by Zarko Petan, a Slovene theatrical producer of note.

"The cautious person travels from capitalism to socialism with a return ticket." "We have paid too dearly for freedom

when we consider its quality." "Love of the fatherland is almost always platonic on both sides." "Cowards' hearts beat faster than heroes, but last longer."

Remembering Mr Petan's artistic affiliation, I like his non-political aphorism, too. "In the theatre, the director is God—but unfortunately, the actors are atheists."

Spice of life
An uninvited sparrow flew into, and landed eventually out of, the blue-and-white Orchid Room of the Dorchester hotel yesterday. A lunch guest, without any pretence at concealment, emptied his uneaten slice of lamb into a serviette and took it home to his six cats. Jimmy Saville's cigar smoke all but obliterated the Union Jack emblazoned on his pillar-box red jumper.

I need scarcely add that the occasion was a show business one. It was, in fact, the Variety Club's ladies luncheon—the only occasion in the year when this admirable charitable organization, a bastion of male chauvinism as someone described it yesterday, is infiltrated en masse by the opposite sex.



PAGE

The breakfast this year was in honour of Eric Morley, the Mecca man, whose humanitarian work for handicapped and deprived children has helped to raise millions of pounds over the years. Mr Morley, who somehow looked all wrong away from his Miss World contest, is current president of Variety Clubs International.

I can best give you an idea of the informality of the occasion by reporting that permission to smoke was given after the terrace de turbot and pistaches and before the sold d'agneau forcé.

Survival secret

The reason the Relais de Campagne and Chateaux Hotels association launched their new guide at the Connaught hotel yesterday was that it is the first hotel in Britain to have been awarded two stars for its cuisine.

Joseph Olivero, the association's president, has to survive some 500 meals a year on a par with yesterday's *fouillade* de foie gras Lucullus and salmon trout soufflé au champagne. He does it, he says, by not being afraid to leave food on the plate

Archetypal goonery

William (The Great) McGonagall, the 19th century eccentric, who was considered a literary joke in his lifetime and was described contemporaneously by Punch as "the greatest bad verse writer of his age", has just had his prolific collection of bizarre poems translated into Russian, Chinese, Japanese and (no wait for it) Thai. One in the Thai for his detractors: surely.

McGonagall first had his *Poetic Gems* published in 1877. He died a pauper in Edinburgh in 1902 but is now a cult figure, notably behind the Iron Curtain. The copyright for his work is still held by the Dundee firm of David Winter and Son, which first printed his penny broadsheets.

Apparently one of McGonagall's greatest fans is Shaikh Youssef, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, who ordered a copy recently of "McGonagall and Tommy Atkins", a volume of verses about the British Army. The Shaikh was reportedly much impressed with "The Battle of Omdurman" and has

hung that verse in a gold frame in a place of honour.

Later this month in Dundee there is to be a festival in honour of McGonagall when Spike (The Greater) Molligan and Peter (The Greater) Sellers will lead tributes to the world's worst poet.

Double dealing

Edward Heath, seller and author of discretion, confessed yesterday that he has no interest in sailing round the world. Not, he added, through any lack of requests for him to do so, which raised a laugh among the bookellers when he opened the 19th Antiquarian Book Fair in London.

He had, however, made an important discovery about book selling, which was that dealers formed two groups: those who marked a book when they got it and never changed the price, and those who reviewed it every three or six months. "I shall sell all those on my first list and sell to the second, a simple and enjoyable way of ensuring something to live on in my very old age," Mr Heath said, with a laugh and a youthful shrug.

Looking to the future

Inviting me to the opening of a cricket pavilion next door to Buck House, the PR girl is apologetically, that I ought to bring my own wellies. "The pavilion" is in fact in basement of Bonaparte (practically adjacent to Hobart House coal seam).

Bonaparte, through t Bonapartes, announced yesterday that with immediate effect they are to sponsor cricket to the tune of £10 this season. The scheme will operate in conjunction the Cricketers' Association rebel circuit here, which (note) and awards will go the county cricketer of year, the outstanding captain, the most important English-qualified cricketer and there is a surprise award of £500.

Each month for the rest of the summer (what summer there will also be an event to the county cricketer of month, the best batting bowling performance, month and a fielding/wicket-keeping award.



Foot's statement on devolution to the House of Commons yesterday served only to emphasise the Government's predicament. They have failed to get Scotland and Wales 'Bills' through this session partly because of the Bill's evident flaws, partly because ministers are so intransigent in responding to constructive proposals for improvement, but also probably because there is no majority in the House for a devolution measure. The Bill was blocked for its virtues as well as its faults. That is what makes the Government's task so perplexing. They cannot afford to let the matter drop for undermining their position in Scotland further. They cannot put all the blame on other parties because they know that if their own Bills were solid they would be sure to pass a devolution Bill on to statute book. Yet there can be no assurance that even the Bill so sagely devised would fare any better next session than the Scotland and Wales Bills of this session. It is suggested, to make matters worse, that the next Bill will be more difficult to sell, because it will be so heavily amended. It is proposed to give a Scottish Assembly raising powers, for

example, some waverers may be coming to the opposition. So less than they, if Westminster takes less authority to make a majority of detail in fields where the assembly is to be given responsibility, even though detailed interference is more likely to jeopardize the future of the United Kingdom by provoking conflict.

There is no way of avoiding the dilemma by means of a select committee at this stage. Mr Foot was justified in regarding the disagreement with the Conservatives over the terms of reference of such a committee as reflecting a deeper disagreement over its purpose. The balance of opinion within the Conservative Party now would simply not permit the leadership to commit itself to any devolution scheme worthy of the name. All that may be different after the next election if the SNP has given the Conservatives a fright by increasing its representation at Westminster considerably. It would be misguided, therefore, to rule out permanent select committees or a similar device for all-party negotiations. It is just that the necessary conditions do not yet exist.

This does not mean that the Government would be justified

in simply putting their heads down and charging on regardless of everybody else. They are bound to continue consultations with the other parties, and the Government of the past with them, and these particular discussions must be of more substance than others because devolution is one of the main questions on which ministers will have to satisfy the Liberals if the pact is to be renewed. The Government should also be far more receptive than they were last time to suggestions from any quarter as to the Bill proceeds.

But in preparing the Bill—Mr. Foot could not even confirm yesterday that there will be separate ones for Scotland and Wales—they should concentrate not on trying to achieve the impossible of neutralizing each other, but of finding a different kind of criticism, one which does not depend on the theoretical majorities of shifting votes. It would be better just to try to devise as coherent a Bill as possible. In that case, if they fail they would at least have something worthy to put before the Scottish electorate. That means that in terms especially of finance, the powers and the methods of electing the assembly they should be far more radical than they were last time or most people expect them to be now.

Home Secretary's Advisory Council on the Penal System and Parole Board have both published constructive reports dealing in their different ways, with same issue: how to reduce appallingly high level of the on population without at the same time putting society under significantly increased risk. The council recommends that magistrates and judges should impose shorter sentences on the "ordinary" offender, particularly the first-time criminal, than do at present on the "professional" or criminological offender, which indicates that at the other end of the sentencing scale, the actual length served has little relevance to the safety of the community or to the offender's prospects of not re-offending, and on the view that the first offender, it is the opening of the sentence, the initial shock, that promotes the necessary deterrent effect on him. The council's views are shared by a wide body of respectable opinion and it is hoped that judges and lawyers will record them when they despatch.

The Parole Board's annual report testifies to another year in which it has managed to adopt an increasingly adventurous approach to the release of prisoners on parole without any significant rise in low, acceptable, failure rate in any such system suitably entail. The Board is, however, beginning to have to deal with the generation of offenders who, before the infliction of the death penalty, have been accepted as not posing any serious threat to the public and are under sentences of life imprisonment—the Parole Board must be careful to

taking into account fully the strong feeling of the community that those convicted of particularly barbarous crimes should not be released for a very long time, however much evidence there may be of an apparent "conversion" on their part. There are some murders which have been so offensive that the perpetrators could not be considered as persons who should be released from society, the consequences of which could affect the reputation of the parole system as a whole and act to the detriment of large numbers of prisoners with valid claims to early release.

The Parole Board has now asked Home Office ministers to consider whether the system should be amended to require it to give its reasons to a prisoner, to whom it has refused parole. This, it is said, would mitigate the distress felt by a prisoner who is not only refused parole but is also told that he is not suitable for him where he is able to do so, to take action to remedy the circumstances giving rise to the negative decision. That argument may have some validity in minority cases.

There are, however, a number of grounds for not providing reasons for refusal. The reasons would inevitably have to be set out in vague and crude form. There would be little scope for being able to reflect a decision based on a combination of reasons, none of which necessarily predominated. The Parole Board may be in possession of sensitive information, and it would be unwise to tell a prisoner himself, about his mental attitude, for instance, in the case the provision of the true reasons could have a far more traumatic effect on the prisoner than a bald, unmotivated refusal.

The bird might find itself tempted to disguise the true basis of its decision by giving the prisoner a bland, but misleading explanation. Neither the truth nor the lie could have any but negative effect. Giving reasons might also involve maligning innocent third parties, for instance by suggesting moral turpitude on the part of the prisoner's family as a ground for refusing to allow him to return to it.

The main ground for opposing the giving of reasons is that it would change the whole basis of, and the philosophy behind, the parole system. Parole was not designed to be a right, but a privilege. The nature of its application is discretionary, not judicial. As soon as reasons are provided, the prisoner will demand the right to "prove" those reasons inapplicable, and it will be difficult to deny him that right. The result could be to place once on an issue such as, "home or prison, neither or not the home to which the prisoner would go on release was suitable or whether his family could adequately cope with his release." It would be making a justiciable issue out of something which is, rightly, not justiciable at present and would be going far towards a system based on right, and not discretion. Providing reasons would, too, place the Parole Board in the unwarranted and undesirable position of having to justify and defend its decision against criticism by the refused prisoner, helped no doubt by the bodies which would take up his cause. The entire structure of the system would be altered to the benefit neither of the majority of prisoners, nor of society.

of the remoter compensations of a grey and thundery summer is that it reduces the daily small prospect of an epidemic of poliomyelitis. This, in spite of the weather, the prospect has appeared distinctly less remote than usual: seven cases have been reported in April, compared to ten in the whole of last year and two in 1957. The number of children attacked against polio, diphtheria and tetanus has fallen 27 per cent since 1972. The threat to unvaccinated individuals is slight if they are few and many, but becomes much less if there are enough of them to make it easy for the disease to spread.

It was partly because of fears of this kind that Mr Ennals announced yesterday that the Government accepted in principle its responsibility to pay compensation for serious injuries caused by officially recommended vaccination. Inoculation has become less popular because polio and other like have become illnesses rarely seen or thought of, and partly because the recent controversy over the brain damage occasionally caused by whooping cough vaccination has made

parents aware that prevention
is dangers of its own. Publicity
about one kind of vaccine tends
to breed mistrust of other kinds,
even though the balance of risks
there may be quite different.

As a gesture of reassurance
Mr. Ennals's statement is pro-
bably misconceived. There may
be parents who will find that
their fears for their children are
dissolved by the prospect of a
concomitant conspiracy should
the vaccine go wrong, but they must
be greatly outnumbered by those
who will only see the statement
as confirming the gravity of the
danger. Reassurance would be
better provided by signs that the
Ministry assesses the balance of
risks more carefully than it has
always seemed to in past state-
ments. Whooping cough vaccina-
tion is justified in certain social
circumstances and with certain
safeguards, but the impression of hav-
ing been deceived by an out-
lettery into admitting that the
case for administering it as a
matter of routine has grown
weaker over the years.

As a gesture of justice, the
statement is well meant if
awkwardly timed. It is in a sense
an anticipation of the report of
the Royal Commission on Civil
Liability, expected later this

year, although apparently all the members of the commission have already reached the same conclusion on the broad point of principle as Mr Ennells has. But nothing can be done until the report has appeared to settle the difficult problems of detail. In particular, how liability is to be established and assessed.

In principle it is fair that when the Government advocates a course of action which is known to be dangerous to a large number of individuals, unpredictable as to who will be affected, but which benefits the community in general, it should accept a special responsibility towards those who suffer. This is especially so with whooping cough vaccination where the children who take the risk are already past the age at which the disease would be likely to cause much harm. But it is not easy possible to prove how a particular case of brain damage was caused. Many cases will be wrongly attributed. Where there is such a wide margin of error, it would be unjust for there to be too great a disparity between the compensation provided for those whose brain damage is attributed to vaccination, and the support provided for those believed to have suffered from natural causes.

Miss Agnes E. Bellchambers
refer to the article by your
Services Correspondent in
issue of June 10. If the govern-
ment is correct in maintaining that
it is possible to increase pensions
less than five months in this
hyperinflation it seems to me
it is still possible to have two
raises per year. If this is not
possible we cannot have a more
moderate increase that will allow
businessmen to keep up with inflation
in twelve month period? As it
is, the cost of living is so high
that one can scarcely buy the same
things for the same price two
months later.
If the government does not take five
months to be implemented, I would

also like to point out that many
settlements are back dated to
the time the demand was sub-
sided. If the computers are unable to
perhaps ready recknors and
pens are still available.

Yours faithfully,
RAGNES E. BELLCHAMBERS,
Reading Street,
St. Peters,
Broadstairs,
Kent.
June 10.

Food prices
From Mr D. K. W. Cox
Sir, As a farmer, like any other
believer in the market economy, I

From Mr D. K. W. Cox
Sir, As a farmer, like any other
believer in the market economy, I

From Mr Norman Frazer Sir, During the course of the First World War the police in this country were grossly underpaid, and this was the cause of many strikes. This led to considerable discontent and, sad to say, to police strikes in London and Liverpool, etc, in 1915.

A government committee under the chairmanship of Lord Dunsley, the Home Secretary, was implemented in 1923. It provided for free housing or an allowance in lieu, boot allowances and a pension of two-thirds pay after 30 years or half pay after 25 years. The pay structure for constables was £100 a year or 20 per cent above the average industrial wage index.

These factors, together with other advantages, attracted to the police service a lot of recruits of high calibre. The result was a happy, contented and very efficient police force. Since that time the advantages have been whittled away by the improvement in wages and conditions of work which have richly achieved in the industrial field by the majority of workers. Alas, the police have been left far behind! I understand the comparative figure is now about 83 per cent of the average wage—a far cry from Desborough's 120 per cent

From Dr J. D. J. Haward

Sir, interference with the rights of citizens is always been a major cause of controversy over public health legislation, and the extent to which this is justified is not always related to the beneficial results on rates of mortality and morbidity. The interference with the right of citizens to sit in their chairs, the statutory notification of certain diseases, such as scarlatina, which are no longer important, provides an example. But it has not so far been challenged by the public.

It is the interference of seat belts wearing among front seat occupants from the present level to 80 per cent would reduce the annual number of fatal or serious injuries by about 13,000. This can be achieved only by legislation. But it can be argued that the citizen who is going to be involved in a serious road accident is entitled to risk being killed or consigning himself to a life of paralysis or minor paralysis as no more than a small price to pay just as it can be argued that he should be free to risk reducing his expectation of life by imprudent eating, smoking and drinking, etc.

It is not yet emerged sufficiently clearly from the evidence presented in the House of Lords is the special case which can be put forward for seat belt legislation. In the first place, road accidents are most likely to take place out of hours

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From Mr David McCormick
Sir, Do the anti-seat-belt people never take to the air? It is curious that in the course of my frequent plane trips I have never heard protests about personal liberties when the air hostess reminds us to put our seat belts on.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID MCCORMICK,
122 Cambridge Street, SW1.
June 10.

From Mr Peter Manson
Sir, Of course cigarette smoking should eventually become a criminal offence (Nigel Lawson, M.P. letter June 11) and the sale of cigarettes be made illegal, just as the sale of cannabis, heroin, amphetamines and other dangerous drugs is illegal.
In the meantime cigarette sales should be restricted to adults and no sales be allowed from machines. The Chancellor should impose a health tax starting at 1p per cigarette, rising to 10 pence per 10p per cigarette. This would help to support the health service in its expenditure on diseases caused by cigarette smoking.
Hopefully such a tax would reduce the number of smokers, and the remaining smokers, and the Government has given their verbal word at addiction centres—as at present applies to addicts of the other drugs.

From Mrs Ludmila Alexejeva
Sir, The preparatory conference designated by the Helsinki Final Act, to review the progress of its implementation opens on Wednesday, June 15.
How disappointing this progress is, particularly in the field of human rights, can be gauged from the fact that the citizens of the communist countries who expressed concern about it have themselves become the target of repression. This includes the failure of the USSR, and of the countries of Eastern Europe, to observe the solemn agreement signed by them in Helsinki.

We protest against the continuous persecution of those who are now in prison because of their decision to demand the immediate release of political prisoners in the USSR and Eastern Europe and in particular of people arrested in connexion with activities aimed at the implementation of the Helsinki Accords. These included members of the Helsinki "war dog" committees in the Soviet Union: Orlov, Scharschinsky, Rudenko, Gamasachuridze, Charter 77 members in Czechoslovakia: Lederer, Machacek and Lastuvka; of the Workers' Defence Committee in Poland: Michnik, Kuron and many others.

We demand that the western delegates should conform to the formal stipulation of the Helsinki Final Act that the Belgrade conference and engage in a serious scrutiny of what has happened to its recommendations. A failure to do so, both explicitly and in earnest will have shameful, if not catastrophic consequences for both Eastern and Western Europe.

Yours,
LUDMILA ALEXEYEVA,
ANDREY AMALIK,
VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY,
NATALYA GORBANEVSKAYA,
TATYANA KRAVCHENKO,
LESZEK OLSAKOWSKI,
LEONID PLYUSHCHY,
MARIA SINIAVSKI.

June 13,

From Mr Oliver Stutchbury:
Sir, While I support nearly all the suggestions made by Sir John Colville in his imaginative new design for democracy in Britain (*The Times*, June 7), it is a great pity that he should propose that a "suitable" election expense for candidates to his new assembly should be provided from the public purse. Unless a person "with substantial support" (Sir John's criterion for eligibility for public funds) is able to raise enough money for his candidature, then he is incompetent or irresolute or both. It is the duty of the public to insist to keep the political parties out of the selection of candidates; but he need not worry on that score, because (left to themselves) two of the three national party machines will shortly go bust owing to their incompetence with which they are currently being run—and not moment too soon.

He who pays the piper calls the tune and one of the things we must do is to change the system, to the netier of government has my ear, over who is a "suitable" person for candidature. We would then prevent the cosy little racket now in evidence at Westminster where the politicians and their advisers (no matter which government is in power) appoint one another to all the "suitable" jobs as being the "most suitable" to run our country despite ample evidence that between them they have been running a rickety country into bankruptcy for most of their working lives.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER STUTCHBURY,
45 South Street,
East Sussex.
June 9.

From the President of Sion College Sir, On page 18 of your issue of June 14 you say that "The greatest loss to Sion College is the one sold at Sotheby's yesterday". Kindly permit me to correct the record.

Out of well over 100,000 books only 76 have been sold, albeit often important to collectors, as the price indicates. The library, however, remains in full use. The sale has naturally caused distress among bibliophiles and collectors, your own confidence columns, but probably less distress to them than to Sion College.

The college's library is perhaps the finest theological library in England (other than the copyright libraries). It is a working library, and a museum. The financial situation was such that either we got more money or we closed down. We first issued an appeal to which the City responded generously; but, even so, the stark alternatives remained. After much deliberation and prayer, we had to decide to sell some, and only some, of our treasures and keep the college and its library going. We have now parted with a single theological volume. With increased finances it is our hope that we may now be able to buy back, even more to the Church and State than heretofore. Your obedient servant,

E. GARTH MOORE,
Sion College,
Victoria Embankment, EC4,
June 14.

From Miss Nicola Lodge
Sir, Can you tell me why, in this age of equality between the sexes, often enforced by Government decree, when a man receives an accolade his wife becomes a lady. Yet for a husband who has encouraged, supported and perhaps sacrificed his own career in the promotion of an ambitious woman when she receives a title he remains a mere mister? I would be obliged if one of your erudite readers could reply.

Yours very sincerely,
NICOLA LODGE.
48 Holland Street, Wg.

From the Bishop of London
 Sr. This week the Housing (Homeless Persons) Bill, a Private Member's Bill sponsored by Stephen Ross, MP, and supported by the Government, is being considered by the House of Commons. The place of legislation to set out the responsibilities of local authorities towards homeless people for nearly thirty years, the Bill has received support in principle from members of all the political parties, who acted as its initial sponsors, and seeks to establish a basic framework for helping homeless people such as has been adopted by the recent governments. The Bill also responds to the call of a British Council of Churches conference last year that such a legal framework should be established.

distributing padding and other safety factors in the interior design of the vehicle. The vehicle is then crunched into which the body of the belted occupant comes into contact in a crash are entirely different from those liable to cause injuries to unbelted occupants. Yet designers will continue to insist that belts will not be worn and a very unsatisfactory situation may result. Finally, the increased tendency to resort to smaller cars in the interests of conserving fuel means that less protection against side-impact collisions is available in the case of an accident, and the wearing of seat belts becomes even more important.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARVARD,
Principal Deputy Secretary,
British Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, W.C1.

approximately two years since the television documentary *Johnny's Room* made the streets of London a scene of the growing extent of homelessness and rootlessness among young people in our cities. Since then a Government to which I have pressed the need to take action has been elected. I am now anxious to provide accommodation for the homeless young, whether directly or through clear links with responsible voluntary organizations. The Homeless Persons' Bill presents Parliament with a unique opportunity to protect young homeless people in this way. It is an opportunity which will not be repeated. I am anxious to take action in helping the homeless, no cause could surely be more worthy than that of preventing young people from both falling into dire risks and from being made liable to the community.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

GERALD LONDON.
10, Tavistock Square,
London House.
10, Tavistock Square, SW1.

Page 13.

Racing costs

From the President of the Racehorse Owners Association

Sir, Your leader (June 6) headed "Footing the bill for our racehorses" is welcomed by the Racehorse Owners Association as a most appropriate of the Economist Intelligence Office's survey of the financial requirements of the racing industry. One of the paragraphs refers to the equation between owners' costs and prize money. It is a little surprising that the correction and amplification.

Basic training and racing costs in 1976 were estimated at £28m. This cost takes no account of capital expenditure on premises for the breeding of between 25 per cent and 30 per cent on subsequent resale of flat racers and a great deal more for hurdlers and steeplechasers. After the deduction of percentages for trainers, jockeys, stable staff, etc., the amount of available prize money in 1976 for owners was only £8m which included the owners' contribution to the EIU and itself, therefore

From Mr William Pickles (June 11)
Sir, Mr Edward Hickey (June 11)
Dear Sir, The "six aims" of the
European Community, namely, the
preservation of peace in Europe,
has been achieved, and the Bishops
of Manchester and Chichester made
it clear that they were not
My own opinion, based on some
years of study and teaching, is that
the EEC and its related institutions
will be a success only because
from 1944 onwards, there was no
longer any threat to peace arising
from conflicts in Western Europe.
In other words, what your three
Bishops are saying is that there
is no effect. If any of them can
offer any evidence—or even only
argument—for their view of the
success of the relationship, I should
be delighted to learn of it.
Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM PICKLES
London School of Economics and
Political Science
Houghton Street,
London WC2A 2AE
June 11.

respects unpalatable and unacceptable. With the benefit of hindsight, the

Don Giovanni's escape

From Mr Peter Shaffer
Sir, I write in support of Peter Hall and his excellent production of *Don Giovanni* at Glynedebourne. Even if the escape from the castle denounced him for wilfully spoiling the all-important end of the First Act—the crown of the archbishop—by not permitting the Grand Seigneur to escape from the hands of his vengeful accusers. I was interested in this general response, since Mr Hall's direction of the scene in question had offered me a glimpse of one of the most thrilling and satisfying moments I have ever seen in an opera house.

Truth to tell this climax, as traditionally played, has always seemed to me to be a fairly feeble affair. It usually involves a good deal of "Well-get-you-ye!" gesturing from three pri-

From Dr Barbara Reynolds
 Sir, It is good to know that psychologists have proved that there is such a thing as female intuition. The Italian poet, Ariosto, knew all about it. In *Orlando Furioso* he says:

The advice of women, if spontaneous,
 Is better than the oft pondered
 That is their special gift
 Heaven, with countless more,
 But men's advice (and this is curious)
 Which a mature reflection
 Is rarely good, but must be
 Each aspect studied, sifted
 Every doubt.

Now, Sir, yours exclusively,
 BARBARA REYNOLDS,
 The University of Nottingham,
 University Park,
 Nottingham.
 June 11.

muzzling / wavered-dex: the first for
 muzzling / wavered-dex: the first for
 "My turn-yu turn!" swordplay,
 and five more of muddled escape
 for the Don set to music quite
 obviously too brief for the purpose.
 Mr Hall's version has achieved the
 near-miracle of changing this point-
 less carry-on into an immense and
 coherent climax, liberally by respect-
 ing the original, strictly by padding.
 The author, that is, the author, Don
 Fonté, does not call for an escape in
 any form at all. On the contrary,
 he makes Giovanni stand his ground
 and cry out for all to hear: "Let
 the world fall, nothing will make
 me afraid!" Faithful as usual to
 his writer, Mr Hall virtually does
 make the world fall, and then shows
 the author's attitude to the world in a
 binary gesture of defiance as it does.
 I shall long remember the
 moment when Zerlina screamed in
 sexual fear and the crowd of peas-
 ants, like unwilling guests in De
 Sede's castle, scrambled away in
 their closs. Suddenly lightning
 ripped the air; the casement at the
 back flew open; the heavy car-
 wheel lamus began to caww.

survey which has made little attempt to draw international comparisons of finance and quality. In fact, it is not a comparison of the countries, but a return to racing was the lowest in the U.K. From a betting turnover of £1,517m, the sector returned was 0.5 per cent. In fact, the government took £110m (93 per cent in tax and racing received £8.3m (7 per cent). In the same year, the comparable percentages in France were 1.5 per cent and in Italy and the U.S.A. 58.5 per cent/41.5 per cent. Furthermore, rates of taxation also favour our overseas competitors and there is no doubt that in the face of this opposition the comparative quality of British racing is declining.

Finally, regarding added "sponsorship", which has been suggested as one means of obtaining extra finance for racing, this association is fully appreciative of the support given to racing by commercial sponsors. The amount amounted to £1.2m in 1976, it does feel, however, that over-reliance on sponsorship could lead to problems in the future.

Yours faithfully,
D. DAVID D. SIEFF, President,
Racing Association,
42, Portman Square, W.1.

of the three national party machines will shortly go bust owing to their incompetence with which they are running—and are running—down the moment too soon.

He who pays the piper calls the tune and one of the things we must insist on in the new system, is that no tier of government has any say over who is a "suitable" person for candidature. We would then prevent the costly little racket now in evidence at Westminster where the politicians and their advisers (no matter which government is in power) appoint one another to all the influential jobs as being the "most suitable" to run our country despite ample evidence that between them they have been running a rich country into bankruptcy for most of their working lives.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER STUTCHBURY,
45 South Street,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex.
June 9.

like the cabin of a doomed ship in a rising storm. Through that stage of the play had burst the great wind of the legend. A provincial Japanese saloon was transformed before our eyes into a place of mythical events.

Most certainly this Don Giovanni did not escape through a backdoor, or over his wings. Quite the reverse, he stalked towering up through the disintegrating world, a desperate figure in a black dream, flanked by black enemies, until he reached the very lip of the stage where he stood, scared but unyielding in the glare of his own hurricane, to croak before the audience.

croaked bow—the same bow we had seen him make to the women he had seduced and then abandoned. Marvellous!

At one stroke Hall had solved the central problem of directing *Don Giovanni*—making the *demon*, he could finally link the two disparate acts of this strange piece. By conjuring a surrealist storm in a dining room at the end of Act 1, he could convincingly accommodate a chorus of devils singing under a dining table at the end of Act 2. And by choosing domestic Goya to begin the opera, he could grilles and mirrors so that he could choose Goya to fulfil and then erase it and so unify what in my experience has never been unified before.

Out of well over 100,000 books only 76 have been sold, albeit ones important to collectors, as the price indicates. The library, however, remains in full use. The sale has naturally caused distress among the students as witnesses your own correspondence columns, but probably less distress to them than to Sion College.

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E. GARTH MOORE,
Sion College,
Victoria Embankment, EC4,
June 14.

Unhonoured spouse
From Ms Nicola Lodge

the majority of critics. On reflection I cannot claim to be too surprised: but I am still, after all these years of reading musical journalism, disappointed by encountering the staleness of response, indifference to aesthetics, and sheer unfairness which seem to characterise so much of it. Yours faithfully,
PETER SHAFFER.
11 Tregunter Road, SW10.
June 1955

often enforced by Government
decree, when a man receives an
accolade his wife becomes a lady.
Yet for a husband who has
encouraged, supported and perhaps
sacrificed his own career in the
promotion of an ambitious woman
when she receives a title he remains
a mere mister? I would be obliged
if one of your erudite readers could
reply.

Yours very sincerely,
NICOLA LODGE,
48 Holland Street, W2.

"From £10,000 a month to £100,000 is only another nought. But we would never have made it without the Midland"

Norfolk Bridge Engineering Group,
comprising Tower Drilling Equipment Company Limited,
Tower-Diamond Products Limited,
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Norfolk Bridge Engineering Company Limited



Norfolk Bridge founder-directors, John F. Ashley (right) and Ron Sykes.

Quarry work in Derbyshire: drilling for top-grade limestone with Tower Drilling equipment.

Tower Drilling, now the major company in the Group, is one of Britain's top companies in the manufacture of equipment for drilling, such as drill rods, casings and diamond bits. "We make whatever goes down the hole," says founder John F. Ashley.

This Chesterfield-based company exports its products throughout the world. In Europe, including Britain, they are used in quarries, coal-mines and offshore oil rigs. In Africa you'll find them used for drilling for minerals and water, in Brazil for copper. In the Persian Gulf, they're helping to build the world's biggest dry docks.

"Valuable - thanks to Midland"

But as John F. Ashley explains: "We reckon you're only valuable in the drilling business after you've reached a certain size. We would never have grown fast without the help of the Midland" - the Group accounts and the directors' personal accounts are maintained at the Chesterfield branch.

"It's thanks to the Midland, for instance, that we can meet virtually any demands for exploring new coal fields or for safety probes in existing mines.

"Drilling rigs are expensive pieces of equipment that you can't afford to have idle for even two days. When our customers want parts, they want them right away," says John F. Ashley.

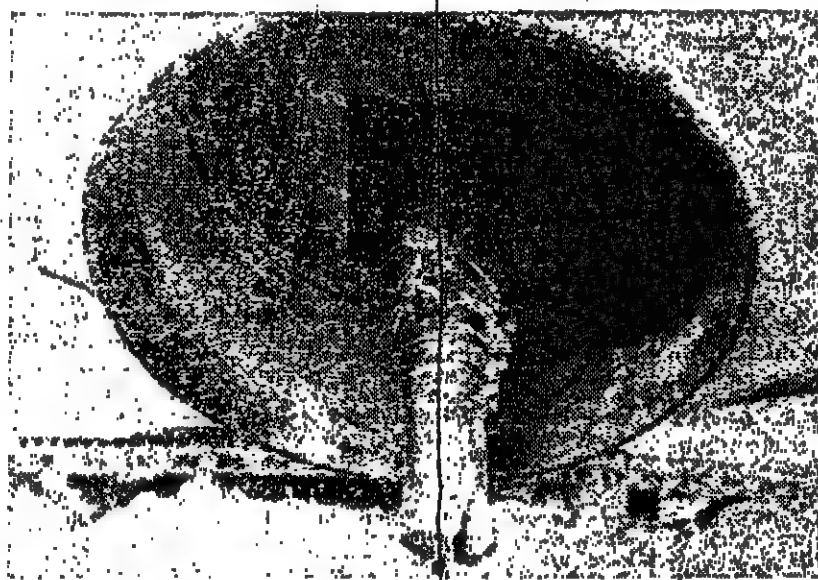
How Midland money helps

Ron Sykes, Secretary and Financial Director, explains how Midland Bank Group helps - with money, for example.

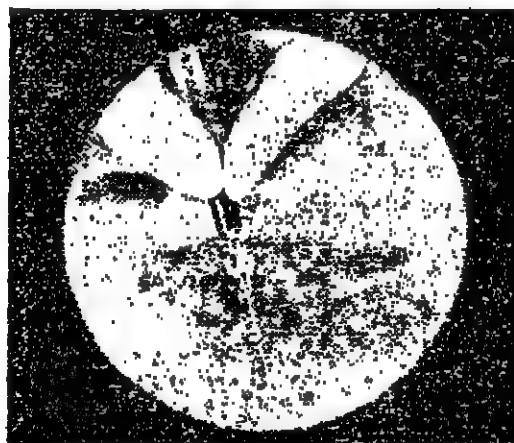
"The biggest single facility we have is to finance stock-holding. We hold something like £400,000-worth of parts in our Tower Drilling Company alone.

"Look what it's like with exports, for example. Tooling-up for overseas markets can be fast and furious - when it happens. It's like an explosion of drilling overnight, and that's the kind of reason why we have to hold such large stocks.

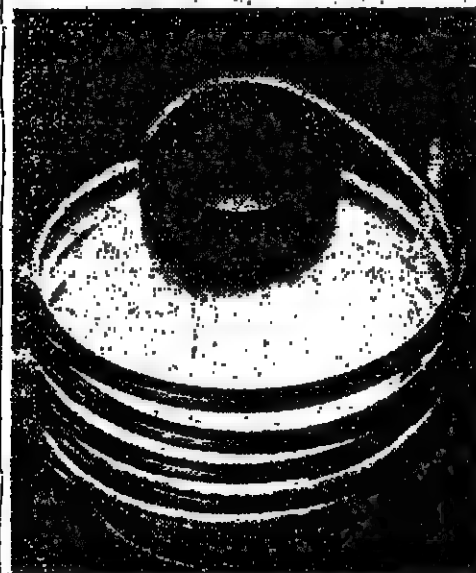
"Many of our contracts are with foreign governments. They're always big, so exports can be up to 40% of our business in a year. The Bank understands that; we have arrangements with Midland Bank International Division for a facility should we need it. The International Division has been very good for us. They make sure our foreign earnings come back at the right time, and they help us when we have to buy forward currency."



Derbyshire worm's-eye view of dust extractor and drilling bit.



One drilling bit can use up to £1,500-worth of industrial diamonds.



Bonding diamonds onto the body of a rotary diamond bit.



Repairing the mast of an off-shore drilling rig.



Drill head and magazine.

"More economical insurance"

Company insurance is another area where Midland Bank Group specialist expertise has proved especially valuable.

"We have men going underground, and we insure them at competitive rates. We're agents for a range of German drilling machines, and when we're bringing equipment from Germany there can be £500,000-worth of cover involved.

"Until Midland Bank Insurance Services took us in hand we were under-insured on some things, over-insured on others.

"They have put everything together and given us some very good advice. We have Group policies now for everything - they're easier to understand and more economical."

"Drilling for the future"

"Drilling is probably the most dramatic industry in the world right now - everyone is looking for energy, for minerals, for water, everywhere they can think of.

"We find that having Midland Bank with our Company is like having a third hand. We can discuss so many of our future developments with Midland Bank Group companies.

"I remember in our early days together, when we reached £10,000 turnover in a single month for the first time. I said to John Ashley the time would come when we'd be doing £100,000 a month and, when he looked surprised, I told him - why not? It's only another nought!

"But we would never have made it without the Midland."

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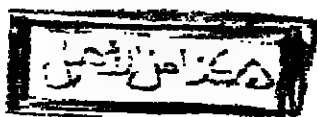
Also, for very large companies, Midland's Corporate Finance Division has a select team that can work directly with the company to make the best possible use of the wide range of Group services.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, June 13. Dealings End, June 24. § Contango Day, June 27. Settlement Day, July 5
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Computer procurement policy

tries throughout the world we have won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement three times. In 1975 our export sales were £2,500,000.

And yet, we and our colleagues in the other American computer manufacturers based in the United Kingdom, are not allowed to compete on a standstill for part of the business in an open and competitive market.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. ROBERTSON,
Director, Finance and Administration,
ICL Limited,
226 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 6LY.

From Mr. A. G. Horsmail — cost inflation is reduced, and their goods remain competitive at higher exchange rates. On the basis that the sterling credits of £300 million outstanding in 1976 I estimate the loss of purchasing power at around £4 billion — an exchange rate was c

These companies have much to gain if they are allowed to reduce their cost of borrowing by making use of the credits privately with the banks. These companies have much to gain if they are allowed to reduce their cost of borrowing by making use of the credits privately with the banks. These companies have much to gain if they are allowed to reduce their cost of borrowing by making use of the credits privately with the banks.

unemployment—are overlooking the virtuous chain reaction which follows from a higher...

is Burge and Co, stockbrokers,
Dorner House,
Clothair,
Bedford
June 3.

RICHARD MAURICE LTD

Appeal Consultants
Campaign Directors are urgently seeking appeals starting in July and September. Preferable age range 45-55. Most assignments will be in the home during the working week. Salary, car and substantial allowance.
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Chelsea, London SW3 2SD.
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Write to Mr. Kenneth Lawrence, Eurocamps, House, 9-11 Princess Street, Manchester, M2 4BB (1987).

GENERAL VACANCIES
DORMY HOUSE HOTEL
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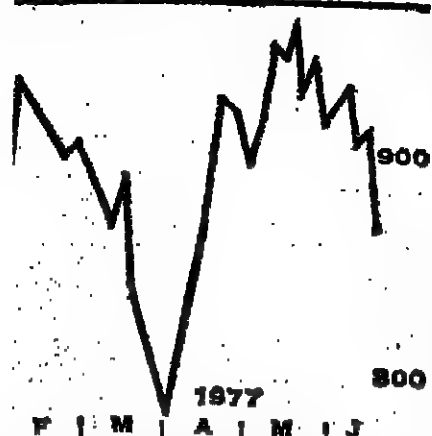
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BP in the light of day

As the future holds, yesterday was a day which will be chalked up in the history of the British securities industry. Not only did BP offer of £564m of BP stock massive standards, but the underwriting was out with speed and efficiency.

HALES pence



Finally emerged into the light of day looks imaginatively structured and just cheaply enough to overcome heretofore qualms. Indeed, indications were that several institutions ready looking for more than their allocation.

will be able to top up their BP at an effective price of around 10p in the absence of stamp duty and the from the long gap between the two the partly-paid issue more than making the loss of the 10.6p interim discount, then, is a comfortable tenth the BP price prevailing before light in front of the sale which is in itself a success of the underwriters writing the BP price in the past few

chief interest in BP until the final December will be in the partly-paid

party myths under attack

Investor knows that property is a long-term hedge, or does he? Strip-unthinking assumptions out of that and stockbrokers Greenwell rightly put in an analysis today that property in inflation hedge in a growth area. British office market has tended to down area for rents because of restrictions on supply of space rather than massive level of unsold demand space. And with that in mind, all eyes move towards the abolition of controls as a long-term problem industry.

Immediately the broker takes a new the demand-supply equation in the ce market. Clearly there is a shortage space. But that does not necessitate upward pressure on all rents of the weight of office overhead shing space users from older buildings a relatively constant net demand for space Greenwell sees a two-tier market developing with modern offices commanding rising rents but the mass of older buildings largely ex-growth.

Key factor in increasing office over-stress over the next few years is the 2 of lease reversions around the end decade. Progressively shorter rent periods on new buildings since the 1976 and the early 1980s. On the 3 the prospect of reversions bringing 4 the rents up to current levels in 5 makes occupiers look more closely of requirements, moves supporting 6 the two-tier market thesis.

On the other hand, even without much 7 with beyond current levels, the 8 from historical to current rents on

shares which have all the trading attractions of an ordinary option. With the BP recovering well in late dealings yesterday the premium on the 300p partly-paid shares could run out to 20p or more when dealings start in July.

However, SEC regulations being what they are, the American end of the operation cannot be tied up until allocation day in a couple of weeks time. What seems important at this stage, however, is that the 25 per cent of the offer reserved for the United States appears to be a flexible figure. And the amount that goes to the States is going to determine just how much the Government pulls in this month and how much in December.

Assuming a full 25 per cent went across the Atlantic, the Government "take" would be £292m in June and £272m in December. Any less than 25 per cent to the States would shift the "take" in favour of December, something that would almost certainly suit a government anxious to hold as much as possible in reserve against the risk of a difficult autumn.

Johnson Matthey

Scope in the dividend

With a dividend covered more than five times, Johnson Matthey must be a prime candidate to lift its payment substantially when dividend controls come off. So a yield of 4.29 per cent with the shares at 437p is not the drawback that it seems.

Moreover, the case for re-rating the shares is also supported by a prospective p/e ratio of around 6 assuming conservative outside estimates of earnings per share this year of 75p to be correct.

For last year, with over capacity in the reforming catalyst industry in the United States, Johnson Matthey faced tough competition and thus saw margins squeezed, on its refining and chemical side.

And the position was not helped either by the United States Ford strike and vacillation over the implementation of revised legal emission standards. However, this remains a major future growth prospect, and in any case last year the Silver Jubilee helped to offset the difficult conditions in the catalyst market, the outcome being a 40 per cent increase in group profits to £21m.

sizeable tranches of companies' portfolios

will have a dramatic impact on profitability. And a rough estimate by the broker of reversionary potential in 10 companies covered in its review suggests that 1975-76 rental income of £116m will increase by £45m by 1980, annual compound growth of 12 per cent, much of which will flow straight through to attributable earnings.



Mr. Sydney Mason, chairman of Hammerson Property & Investment Trust.

On a two-year view Greenwell believes this reversionary strength will be recognized by the market and on that basis it picks Hammerson Land Securities, Haden, Great Portland, Slough Estates, MEPC, Brixton Estate and Stock Conversion.

On a longer, five-to-six-year view, however, Greenwell would switch away from groups with Central London offices as the flow of older offices on to the market undermines rent growth. My view on that sort of time-scale, though, is that investors are likely to have little left to choose from in a sector that looks increasingly like institutional bid fodder.

Hugh Clayton describes the workings of the Community's much criticized Common Agricultural Policy

Controversy about the place of the United Kingdom in the EEC is growing intense almost exactly two years after the referendum on membership. Strains are being felt in all areas of national policy which are influenced by Brussels, from energy to fish.

The most heated arguments surround the Common Agricultural Policy, where the mechanics of the common market work in their purest form and where British policy is led by a minister who calls himself "an unwelcome anti-Marketeer".

Farm policy in the EEC is dangerously hard to understand and its complexity encourages propagandists to arouse consumer suspicion of farmers. It is like some antiquated intuitive philosophical system: the principle would be to have a perfect world, but it has to be modified so much to fit imperfect reality that the central purpose is lost in a jumble of apparently unrelated and arbitrary rules.

The policy is one of those that has been explained after the event. The shopper whose food bill depends on it feels like a bewildered spectator at an obscure ritual.

The "green pound" is bewitched about its origin, but nobody stops to explain what it is. Shoppers are led to believe that the Common Agricultural Policy is used by Brussels to keep uneconomic family farms in business on the Continent with the proceeds of food price rises in Britain.

The wider aim of the policy and its broader effects are forgotten. The British food trades, which were so keen on EEC membership in the 1975 campaign, have done it to make it more palatable.

Harmonization of rules for food distribution, which is meant to lead to a truly common market, is a long, distant and obscure process. The aim behind it is lost in a jumble of single proposals are picked out for decision when they offend particular commercial interests.

That makes measures like improvement of hygiene in poultry slaughterhouses or the adoption of metric grades for eggs look like madcap schemes invented in Brussels for no coherent reason. As Lewis Carroll put it: "He only does it to annoy because he knows it annoys."

Something that really was invented by the Community and which unaccountably escapes most of the criticism is the Intervention Board for Agricultural Products. Each country has one, to act as internal book-keeper for the policy and to arrange storage and sale of surpluses. In Britain the job is done by a department of 300 civil servants which is seldom mentioned in angry tabulations of the cost to the country of EEC membership.

In 1975 the British board paid £170m in refunds on imports of food from the rest of the Community to bring their prices down to British levels. In December, 1974, it paid compensation of £121 on 51 tonnes of cauliflower without from the market and in 1975 supervised the withdrawal of more than 10,000 tonnes of mackerel. What, then, is the green

TREATY OF ROME

Article 38. "The functioning and development of the Common Market in respect of agricultural products shall be accompanied by the establishment of a common agricultural policy."

Article 39. Aims of the policy: to increase productivity through optimum utilization of the factors of production, particularly labour; to ensure thereby a fair standard of living for the agricultural population; particularly by the increasing of the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture; to stabilize markets; to guarantee regular supplies; to ensure reasonable consumer prices.

● Agricultural products include meat, fish, pectin, lard, trees, vegetables, fruit, nuts, margarine, sugar, honey, flax, tobacco and "true hemp (cannabis sativa), raw or processed but not spun; tow and waste of true hemp including pulled or garnetted rags or ropes".

found? To judge from some British statements it is the central nerve of the Common Agricultural Policy. In fact, it is only one of several branches, but it is widely considered in the Community to be monstrous enough to destroy the body.

In the beginning there were no green currencies in the EEC. There were common prices as farm production was incorporated sector by sector into a supra-national framework. That process is now so far advanced that there are few products outside it. The main ones are potatoes and sheep.

However, in the decade during which the accumulation has advanced national currencies have spun away in all directions. The Community has therefore had to content itself with the illusion of common prices instead of the reality.

By insisting on harmonizing farm prices, while it fails to harmonize money, the Community has had to create a bridge between the two. Green currencies make up that bridge.

Tariffs of support prices for farm products and fish are expressed in units of account, the phantom Brussels currency which is constant throughout the EEC.

Thus farmers are told early each year how much extra the Council of Ministers decides that they should receive. That decision tends to differ from the advice of the European Commission, which in turn falls short of what farmers claim.

The increase for each product is expressed in units of account. The units are then turned into national currencies at "green" rates of exchange.

The units are decided by the Community as a whole and the green rates by national governments. The operation of the common market in farm products is therefore at the mercy of national monetary decisions. The key to what a farmer receives therefore lies in a mixture of central common decisions and individual national ones derived from it. The two sets seldom march.

If a national currency moves on international exchange markets after the Community has set its annual prices in units of account its relationship with the unit is not automatically adjusted in proportion. That means that the value to a farmer in one country of a common price can change relative to the value elsewhere. In Britain, for example, the Government refused to change

BRITAIN AND THE EEC

	All EEC	UK	France	West Germany	Italy	Irish Republic	Denmark	Benelux	Spain, Greece, Portugal
Land used in farming (%)	61	77	60	54	58	69	69	55	50
Proportion of labour force in farming (%)	9	2	12	7	17	24	10	5	30
Self-sufficiency (%) in—									
grain	91	67	173	80	63	67	95	35	not available
fish	57	50	62	20	36	104	271	40	na
oil and fats	40	18	48	39	50	80	111	35	na
Shares in output of—									
milk (%)	100	16	30	21	10	4	5	14	8
meat (%)	100	15	25	23	15	3	6	14	13
grain (%)	100	15	59	20	15	1	7	3	17
timber (%)	100	4	42	30	16	1	2	5	30

Sources: FAO, European Commission.

EEC farm prices: confusion heaped upon confusion

that returns to farmers there are higher than they would otherwise be.

That means in turn that British and West German farm and food prices have been propelled in opposite directions. Yet one of the cardinal principles of the Common Agricultural Policy is that there should be no barriers to international trade.

If West German prices are high while British ones are low, West German creameries, say, would clearly be handicapped in selling butter in Britain. The rules say that they must not be so handicapped.

The obstacle is removed by the insertion of a monetary compensatory amount in the transaction. That amount is financed by the whole Community and is the source of the subsidy of £1m a day which Britain receives against its food prices.

These amounts, incidentally, are not to be confused, as they sometimes are in the House of Commons, with accessionary compensatory amounts. The latter iron out the difference in prices caused by the slow rise to full Community levels of farm prices in new member states. In the case of Britain they will end by next year when those levels are reached here.

It is wrong to think that monetary compensatory amounts will cease at the same time. They will remain as long as national money decisions distort the common market in farm prices. The two species of amount do not depend upon each other, even though their similar names may suggest that they do.

The so-called subsidy which Britain receives is the cost to the Community of making up

the difference between the fixed green rate of the pound and the actual floating rate. The European Commission prefers to call it the cost to the Community of shielding Britain from the impact on food prices of the fall in sterling.

But there is more to it than high internal prices, since every increase in support to Community farmers entails a rise in the barriers which ensure that competing foods from outside do not undercut the internal product.

Critics of the Common Agricultural Policy reply to a Commission's claim, about a shield by saying that Community prices, are unjustifiably high and that the operation of the green pound brings them down to where they should be.

The jargon of the policy is at its most terrifying in the realm of prices. The Commission offers the following definitions in one of its guides to the policy: "Target price—price which ought to be paid to the producer under the common market organization... guide price is similar but concerns beef, veal and wine; norm price—same as the above in the case of tobacco."

It continues: "Threshold price—a price calculated so that the imported product, including transport costs, can be sold at the target price. The difference between the world price and the threshold price is covered by a levy... reference price—the price determined by reference to prices paid to producers in the Community and comparable, to some extent, to the sluice-gate price..."

There is also the notorious intervention price, at which official agencies in all member states are obliged to accept certain commodities of suitable quality for storage. It is the point at which the market price is considered to fall so low that produce needs to be removed from the market to encourage a price rise backed by reduced supply and assuming unchanged demand.

That is the theory. In practice, farmers are encouraged by high support prices and rigid production against competition from non-members of the EEC to produce more than internal shoppers want, at prices so high that nobody outside wants to pay them.

CHANGES IN THE GREEN POUND

	United Kingdom	Irish Republic
Accession 1973	2.16440	2.18440
October, 1974	2.00930	1.94830
March, 1975	1.96178	1.89151
August, 1975	1.86368	1.76843
October, 1975	1.75560	1.72814
March, 1976	—	1.69683
October, 1976	—	1.56778
January, 1977	—	1.44212
April, 1977	1.70454	1.35190

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RECORD SALES AND PROFITS

"... we have budgeted for sustained progress... sales trends in the current year are encouraging"

Year ended 31st March	1977	% increase
Sales	£33,384,000	25.0
Profit before tax	£3,618,000	31.2
Disposable profit	£1,733,000	57.0
Earnings per share	4.708p	45.7
Dividends	A maximum permissible final dividend of 0.6512p is recommended.	
Rights issue	£1,850,000 cash to be raised by issue of 1 share for every 4 shares held, at 21p per share.	
Exports	Increased by 85.6% to £1,161,000.	

Fine Art Developments Limited

The 1977 Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary at Fine Art House, Queen Street, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

Business Diary: CoSIRA's Wilkinson • Come in, No 3

Wilkinson, the new Council for Industries in Rural areas, is a large and small.

a codirector of a small in Birmingham, the elections of May was Labour leader of am City Corporation, a budget of £300m

son, who is 39, relieves ridfield, chairman of parent body, the tent Commission, who the council's acting since the retirement of the late Sir Paul

w man comes in at a CoSIRA is being ed by its masters at ment of the Environ- take a more active the support of estab- ill industries and the ement of new ones— by loans for buildings imment or managerial

ouncil's responsibilities land and Wales have been assumed by e development cor- of those countries. IRA is being given ey—it will have about year.

ugham's prestige al Exhibition Centre, only 16 months ago by n, is in such demand is already looking at expanding its one ft of covered space. A it of covered space, also proving to be a to manage.

nief executives have left ily short stays and happy until we have him."

yesterday the NEC board announced that its chairman, Sir Robert Booth, aged 61, had been seconded from Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Joint owners with the city council) to act as chief executive until a replacement can be found. He is due to retire as director of the chamber in November, 1978.

The last NEC incumbent, 48-year-old Gordon Brace, a former Wansley Manor Truman executive, left on March 31 after only nine months in the job.

Since then the board has been using head-hunters to find a replacement. So exacting is the brief, however, that not only have they failed to come up with a suitable candidate, but yesterday Sir Robert admitted that it could take another six months or even a year to find the right person.

So what is the problem? The centre, Sir Robert says, has no equal in the United Kingdom and therefore men with suitable experience are few.

"We are looking at allied businesses and may even have to go overseas. We need a chief executive who is skilled in technical matters, marketing, industrial relations, catering, the movement and control of large crowds—the list is endless."

But that is the job description of a very expensive top executive and it could cost the board up to £30,000 a year, three times that paid to the first chief executive, Richard Cunningham, and "something in excess of that" paid to Brace. Sir Robert agrees and declares: "We shall not be happy until we have him."



"We've won first prize a holiday for two in Uganda."

Enter the "Wal", a word coined by Philip Willis in his swansong as chairman of the family firm of commodity traders George Willis & Sons (Holdings).

"A Wal", Willis says, "is a law, edict or what-have-you, that produces precisely the reverse effect of that intended."

Prominent among Wals is the Equal Pay Act, which, he says, "could accurately be called 'Equal Unemployment Laws'."

The Employment Protection Act, he continues, "makes it so difficult to reduce staff that employers think very hard before increasing it: it is undoubtedly helping to keep up employment figures."

"Minimum wages and the work of the Low Pay Unit," Willis continues, "ensure that worthy people, endowed by unfeeling nature with less than a certain degree of competence, must remain unemployed for all time."

He suggests that the LPU, which has attacked legal tax avoidance but not illegal moon-

facet of Edwardes' keenness on improving productivity? Well no, he says. The initiative came from the unions, 1966, eh?

The ripples of the Lough take-over of the Dunford & Elliott group are fanning out through the privately-owned steel industry.

Peter Edwards, one of two directors who resigned in the wake of the takeover, was also chairman of Dunford Hadfield, the principal steelmaking operation within the Dunford group, and into the second half of his two years as president of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association.

A requirement of the post is that the president should be an active steelman and therefore Edwards was obliged to resign the presidency from the beginning of this month. The organization's executive committee yesterday plugged the gap, appointing Dr Donald Hardwick as president and John Paterson as president-elect.

Hardwick is chairman of the steelmaking activities of John Firth Brown and responsible for some 14 companies, while Paterson, a Scot, is chairman and chief executive of the steel division of the Dupont Group and group deputy managing director.

The two men will be helping to wrestle with the European Commission over the steel plans of Industry Commissioner Viscount Davignon.

A visitor being shown into one of the great ministries of state asked if he should leave his coat in an outer office. "It'll be all right, boyo," he was told. "We only steal millions here."

Is the exercise yet another

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Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. David H. Whiteley

- There has been some recovery from the loss situation we reported last year resulting in a profit for the year ended 31st March 1977 of £280,000 before tax.
- Following this improvement your Directors have decided to recommend a dividend of 0.5p per Ordinary Share to be payable on 25th July 1977.
- We have continued our efforts to reduce our costs of production and to develop the sales of diversified products and have achieved further success in both spheres.
- Our overseas investments have again made an increased total contribution to group profitability.
- Our Canadian subsidiary has produced a very good result in its first full year of trading.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Strong in wake of BP and rates cut

With the uncertainty of the BP sale terms removed and surprise cuts in some United States prime rates, shares had their best day for three weeks in what was described as "extremely thin" trading.

The FT Index closed 7.3 ahead at 455.4 and at its best level of the day. Dealers were relieved that the offer for sale had passed without undue alarm and there was general satisfaction at the offer price of 84.5p, just 5p below the generally expected figure. The

Since the disappointment in February of an interim loss and no dividend, the shares of Hardy (Furnishers) have just about doubled to the present 50p for the ordinary and 42p for the "A". The second half will be in profit, but the main spur is talk of a takeover. Freehold properties are an added attraction and Dixons Photographic were thought to be interested in a while ago. Some expect a move by one of the multiples.

shares themselves closed 24p lower at 86.8p, after touching a low for the day of 86.4p. Gilt, too, were in better form than of late though some disappointment at the increase in the Government's borrowing requirement clipped prices back from their best levels.

At the short end of the range, there were gains of up to half a point, while in even quieter conditions, longer dates scored scattered rises of between one-eighth and one-quarter.

Other oil and North Sea stocks responded to the BP offer with strong performances. Shell ended 6p ahead at 53.8p, and there were gains of 4p from Ultramar at 16.9p, Tricentral at 15.6p, and Oil Exploration which ended at 17.6p. Viking Oil continued to respond additionally to last week's mention here and added another 10p for a close of 26.0p.

The industrial leaders were

led higher by Hawker Siddley, where a combination of a shortage of stock and the prospect of next month's share split sent the price soaring no less than 30p to 65.2p. Others advancing were Unilever 10p to 49.2p, ICI 5p to 35.7p, Becthams 4p to 48.5p and, in the light of United States expansion plans, Turner & Newall which rose 6p to 18.2p.

Taxicab concessionaires, Mann & Overton, mentioned here on several occasions as a takeover possibility, firmed 3p to 15.7p after news of agreed terms from hire-purchase group Lloyds & Scottish. Elsewhere in motors, sharply higher half-time profits sent Haulage shooting up 9p to 11.0p, while solid investment demand had Lucas 12p to the good at 30.2p.

Textiles had Dawson International up 4p to 9.7p ahead of figures and G. Spencer better by 5p to 5.2p on some favourable comment. Both were listed as active counters. Meanwhile, in foods, Tate & Lyle rallied 6p to 23.2p ahead of figures. AB Foods gained another half a point at 61.1p after its state ment of the previous day and Spillers were also half a point up at 35p. It was later learned that the baker had applied for a price increase.

Speculative demand was directed into BP Bulmer, better by 11p to 17.3p and Vaux where the gain was 16p to

31.8p. Renewed takeover talk left House of Fraser 4p up at 12.8p and for a Kite rocket MK Refrigeration added 8p to 12.4p. Going the other way was Gallenkamp, where fading bid hopes had the shares 12p lower at 24.7p. But dealers do not rule out another move when the shares have reached a rather lower level.

A rights issue and dividend increase had Alpine, Soft Drinks 6p better at 100p. Other firm spots were to be found in Bury & Masco 3p to 56p after some late interest.

Engineers receiving support included John Brown at 20.8p and Vickers at 16.9p, both up 7p, and Simon which rose 4p to 20.2p. Recent comment continued to draw attention to the group Dumbell Comber, which gained another 10p to 30.6p, while in a firm insurance sector, the pick was Royal with a jump of 8p to 34.2p.

In the property sector, figures from Great Portland brought a rise of 2p to 24.4p, but there was a contrasting response from Berkeley Hambro which shed 12p to 11.5p after its profits slump. The meeting of Hammerson continued to spur some interest in Lucas, which closed a full 17p ahead at 45.0p.

Profits growth helped Chloride, another mentioned here, to go ahead to 10.7p,

while A. Cohen firmed 3p to 16.8p after figures. Value held steady at 30p after its statement, but Record Ridgway lost 2p to 7.4p. Johnson Matthey responded to figures with a late spurt of 7p to 53.7p.

After hours, North Sea issues continued to move ahead with Associated Newspapers going ahead to 18.5p up 10p on balance. Oil issues firmed another penny or so. Equity turnover on June 13

Up jumped Blundell-Permo-glaze 8p to 54p after a recent show of strength. It is thought that the Britannia group of unit trusts could well have sold a stake to Croda International, known for its acquisitive tastes. It is also thought that Smith Ken Custer handled the operation and that Blundell will find the turn of events unelcome. Around 8 per cent of Blundell's shares were involved. Directors' holdings are small.

was £42.19m. (12,288 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stock reseller were BP, ICI, BAT Dfd, Reckitt & Colman, Shell, GMI, Unilever, Gus "A", Distillers, Amalgamated Power new, Lucas, Debenhams, Hawker Siddley, Leadbroke, Dawson International, Henlys, G. Spencer and United Scientific.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fm	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Airflow (F)	7,614.5	0.63(0.25)	11.5(4.6)	5.3(3.0)	19/7	4,44(0.0)
Alpine Drinks (F)	3,815.8	1.3(0.9)	13.6(9.7)	2.2(1.6)	22/7	3,32(0.5)
Chloride (F)	260.4(215.2)	0.64(0.19)	13.4(10.6)	3.4(2.7)	22/7	7,07(5.68)
A. Cohen (F)	40.6(29.7)	2.1(1.5)	45.3(33.3)	3.18(2.89)	22/8	4,9(4.5)
Lucas (F)	46.6(40.2)	0.83(0.72)	1.2(1.1)	0.83(0.72)	22/8	1(1.5)
GEI Int (F)	39.8(32.0)	4.2(3.0)	7.4(5.5)	2.7(2.1)	21/7	3,7(3.4)
Gt Portland (F)	—	2.66(2.65)	5.5(5.2)	2.9(2.54)	31/8	3,9(3.54)
Henlys (F)	71.0(60.3)	1.7(0.43)	7.1(1.7)	2.0(1.75)	9/8	—(5.9)
J. Matthey (F)	28.0(24.5)	0.13(0.13)	6.1(4.7)	7.2(6.1)	21/7	32,19(11.1)
D. J. (F)	3.06(2.6)	0.14(0.11)	1.5(1.3)	0.9(0.9)	5/8	0.9(0.9)
Mellins (F)	—	1.04(0.8)	5.4(4.5)	1.5(1.2)	1/10	—(3.6)
Record (F)	28.1(24.8)	0.00(0.2)	7.8(7.7)	2.84(2.71)	8/7	4,19(3.61)
Sketchley (F)	30.6(26.4)	1.07(0.8)	6.8(—)	1.25(1.13)	—	1,88(1.77)
Tomlinson (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Valor (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. Profits are shown pre-tax, and earnings are net.

Better margins put bounce in Henlys

By Nicholas Hirst

The familiar demand-supply equation has been working wonders on Henlys' margins. Henlys is the number one Leyland distributor in the United Kingdom dealing with around 41 per cent of its total retail sales. So high demand coupled with a shortage of supplies through industrial troubles has pushed trading margins from 2 per cent in the first-half of last year to 2.2 per cent in the second-half and 3.7 per cent in the first six months of the current year.

The effect on profits has been to lift the pre-tax total from £434,000 to £1.5m and £1.7m in the same halves. The build-up of production of the Rover 3500 in the six months to end-March, although less than 10 per cent of sales, and a pick-up in used-car prices, which account for about a third of sales, were major contributors to the margin improvement.

Henlys believes that Leyland has now overcome the worst of its labour problems which should mean that the increased volume targets the company is aiming for should be met. While this will mean a shaving of margins as demand and supply come more into line, Henlys are confident that the increase in volume will more than make up the difference in profit terms.

Neither should the decline in margins be particularly marked as improved production in the mainline cars, which could perhaps account for getting on for half sales in value next year, will be moving ahead faster than the lower margin high volume Austin-Morris production.

The worry, of course, is that Leyland will never regain its 35 per cent share of the market. Its projections lie in its growing agricultural business and in the possibilities of extending the Ford franchise.

Borrowings have declined slightly and although increased volume is going to increase working capital requirements the £500,000 interest charge of the first half reflected finance charges, which has since fallen dramatically.

At 110, up 9, the prospective yield is 9.1 per cent. The interim dividend is 3.1p.

Lloyds & S want all Mann

By Our Financial Staff

The talks that started in May between Lloyds & Scottish and Mann & Overton—following Lloyds' purchase of almost a quarter of Mann's equity—have blossomed into a full takeover bid.

Terms of the offer, which is agreed, are seven Lloyds' ordinary shares for every four Mann ordinaries. This values each Mann ordinary share at 16.41p and the equity at £4.44m. After the news, the Mann shares rose by 3p to 15.7p yesterday and the Lloyds shares by 1p to 94p.

There is a cash alternative. In addition, there is an offer for the 150,000 50p preference shares of 35p cash each. Talks were announced on May 27. Lloyds already owns £28,500 Mann ordinaries (23.2 per cent), bought at 100p a share in May.

ALLIED PLANT Mr W. J. Hopner has disclosed a stake of 400,000 shares (8 per cent).

LAIRD GROUP Mr J. A. Gardiner, the chief executive, has sold his holding. In 1976 accounts his holding was 200,000 shares. On June 3 he sold 20,000 shares at 30.2p, then 40,000 at 30.1p and 40,000 at 30p on June 8.

ROTHSCHILD IN MEXICO N. M. Rothschild & Sons has formed jointly-owned financial services company, Finanzas Corp., with 51 votes Credit Financial and Industrial group in Mexico. Banque Rothschild of Paris and Rothschild & Co. of Zurich will also be shareholders. Rothschild are to form on June 31 a new company in Brazil, Comind Intercontinental.

Fast moving Ridgway clears debt

Record Ridgway, the Sheffield tool group did well, or very well in the six months to April 3, depending on whether you go by historic cost accounts or Morris' Exposure Draft 18.

In historic cost terms it followed up the 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profits of the year to October 3 last with a further 30 per cent gain to £1,040m even though sales rose far more modestly, by less than 24 per cent to £27.5m.

Under ED18 the same gain in sales meant an even more remarkable jump in pre-tax profits though the absolute figures are of course much smaller. Current cost pre-tax profits leapt by 32 per cent to £484,000.

So much for the impact of realistic depreciation on revalued assets, and more importantly of the extra amount (£506,000) needed to replace stock consumed. This more than anything else shrinks £1,040m to £484,000.

For historic cost purposes, Record sets aside an orthodox tax charge of £542,000 but for current cost it takes the benefits of stock relief. This knocks down tax to only £37,000. So dividends of £134,000 are well covered by an historic cost attributable profit of £511,000 or a CCE447,000.

Unsurprisingly, shareholders' funds of £7.58m at historic cost became £11.44m at current cost. Record's informative interim accounts also contain a statement from Mr A. B. Hampton, chairman. He points to the virtual vanishing of net bank borrowing despite a big increase in stocks, reflecting inflation, expansion, and exports about to go overseas.

LWT looks to record pre-tax topping £5m

By Victor Felstead

LWT (Holdings), the parent company of London Weekend Television, is forecasting pre-tax profits, after the Exchequer levy, of about £5.5m for the year to July 24 next, compared with the previous year's peak of £4.7m.

This prediction is contained in the document dealing with the forthcoming introduction by Samuel Montagu of the "A" ordinary non-voting shares of LWT (Holdings). Brokers to the issue are Cazenove.

Preliminary arrangements for the introduction have been completed. In particular, the resolutions (including a one-for-one scrip) were passed yesterday. Dealings are expected to start next Tuesday.

After the scrip issue, LWT's issued capital is 60,000 ordinary 25p shares and 16.1m ordinary "A" non-voters of 25p each. Since transfer of the ordinary shares is necessarily restricted,

the listing application is filed to the "A".

For the current year, board intends to pay a gross dividend equivalent to 5.37p, which would be on 2.5 times by the forecast profit.

In accordance with the "A" continuing policy, of expanding the range and scope of LWT's programmes, they budgeted for a substantial increase in programme expenditure for the period to 1978, the benefits of which extended over several years so will not be fully reflected in the period to next July.

The board is budgeting a 10 per cent increase in net advertising revenue, the extent of which may well be insufficient to take into account the expenditure referred to. It expects a profit for the period next July that would meet forecasts for the current year. LWT's contract with the expires in July, 1979.

Rented overalls may take precedence at Sketchley

Dry-cleaners Sketchley have produced respectable profits for the year to end-March, with a 13 per cent rise in turnover to £28.14m, giving rise to a 15 per cent improvement in profits to £2.25m pre-tax. The directors have recommended the maximum permitted increase in the first dividend to bring the total for the year to 6.46p a share gross. So the yield to new investors at 69p is 9.4 per cent.

But such new investors must put in more money in future to secure the additional benefit available to Sketchley shareholders—a 25 per cent discount on dry cleaning done by the firm. From today the minimum holding of rises from 50 to 300. But the privilege enjoyed by long shareholders with 50, and more will be unaffected. A second very big restricted dividend will be in the business of the dry cleaning division last year, and this made a small loss-reorganization costs of £1. But the industrial service division—which supplies over a sale or rental basis—was to grow apace, and to rise by 23.4 per cent in 1977.

Briefly

Alpine 1-for-10 rights

With Alpine Soft Drinks' latest results comes news of a rights issue to raise about £2.4m. The issue will be on a one-for-10 basis at 80p a share. In the year to March 35, pre-tax profits rose from £513,000 to £1.32m—yet another record—on turnover up from £6.99m to £8.81m. The total gross dividend is being lifted from an adjusted 4.66p to 5.13p. Treasury approval has been given to raise the dividend total to 10p gross for the current year. Alpine's expansion plans, mainly in the South-East, envisage further spending on fixed assets of over £2m.

LAIRD GROUP Mr W. J. Hopner has disclosed a stake of 400,000 shares (8 per cent).

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This Advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities.



LWT (Holdings) Limited

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1967 and registered in England—No. 1241086)

Authorised

£
15,000
4,485,000
£4,500,000

Issued and Fully paid

£
15,000
4,025,000
£4,040,000

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the "A" ordinary non-voting shares of 25p each to be admitted to the Official List. Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 1st July, 1977 from:—

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited,
116 Old Broad Street,
London EC2N 1AN.

Cazenove & Co.,
12 Tokenhouse Yard,
London EC2R 7AN.

The Heath report

Another outstanding year Group profits up 80%

Highlights from the year to 31st March 1977 shown in the Report and Accounts and the Statement by Frank Holland, Chairman of C. E. Heath & Co. Limited

The Year's Results

The excellent progress made in recent years has been maintained. The operating profit at £11,454,000 shows an increase of almost 80% over the previous year and the profit available for appropriation at £5.76m is up by 90%. In this context it is interesting to note that the group was recently included in the Financial Times List of major quoted companies (market capitalisation above £10m) as the second best performing company in terms of growth in market capitalisation for 1976.

A final dividend of 14.0p gross—the maximum permissible—is recommended and in addition the Board recommend a capitalisation issue of two new shares for every one held. This issue will help to correct the balance between our general reserve and the capital of the company and should also improve the marketability of our shares.

Insurance broking

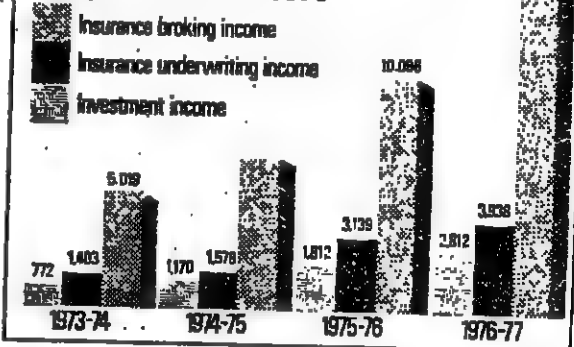
The continued progress of our insurance broking operations is most heartening. Every operating division has made a significant advance in spite of market difficulties. Notwithstanding the obvious problems associated with devaluation of sterling, especially as it affects Lloyd's capacity, our experience in placing covers throughout the international insurance and re-insurance markets in the last year has, if anything, added to the total capacity available.

The Group now handles insurance premiums amounting to £310 million through its broking operations.

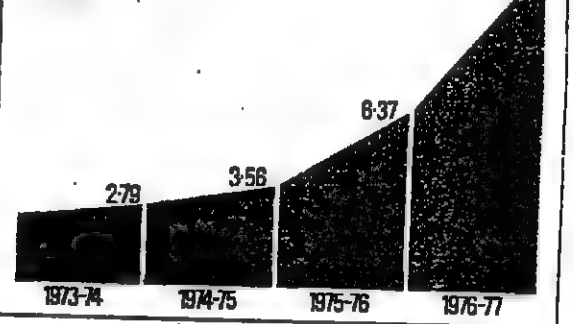
Underwriting

The Lloyd's Underwriting operations for the 1974 Account resulted in a substantial loss for our Non-Marine Syndicate and there is no profit commission contribution from this source. Our Agencies company is continuing to develop with the introduction of the Pine Top Insurance Company, and the increased volume being written by the Bellefonte Insurance Company has enhanced the fee income of the company. In Australia, the revision of our operating basis has taken place and the continued growth of these operations reflects the very great contribution of our staff there.

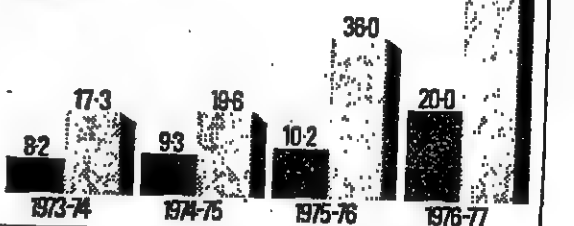
Analysis of income £000's



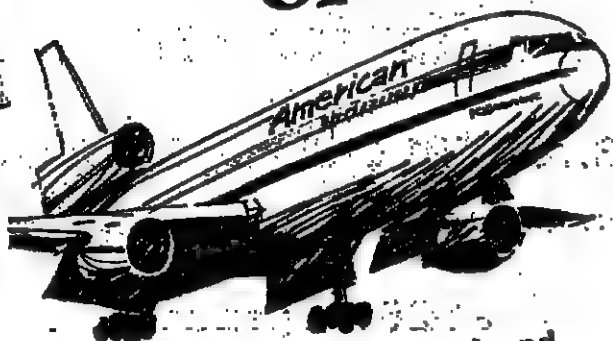
Operating profits £million



Earnings per share Dividends per share (gross) Figs. in pence



The insurance world of C.E. Heath.



Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
C. E. Heath has placed in London and property world-wide markets the liability and property insurance cover of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey including the World Trade Centre complex.

American Airlines
The London Market placement for American Airlines Inc. is arranged by C. E. Heath for Alexander and Alexander N.Y.



Cartier
Cartiers are one of the leading International Jewellers with branches in the major cities of the world. A large part of their insurance requirements and those of other major jewellery concerns are handled by C. E. Heath in the London and Overseas markets.

The Thistle A Project
The World's largest off-shore platform—the Thistle A project. We were chosen by the contractors, Laing Offshore, to insure the site; the dock gates; certain equipment used in the construction of the platform including the specially adapted cranes and their transportation and erection; plus the overall liability for Laing Offshore in their capacity as contractors.



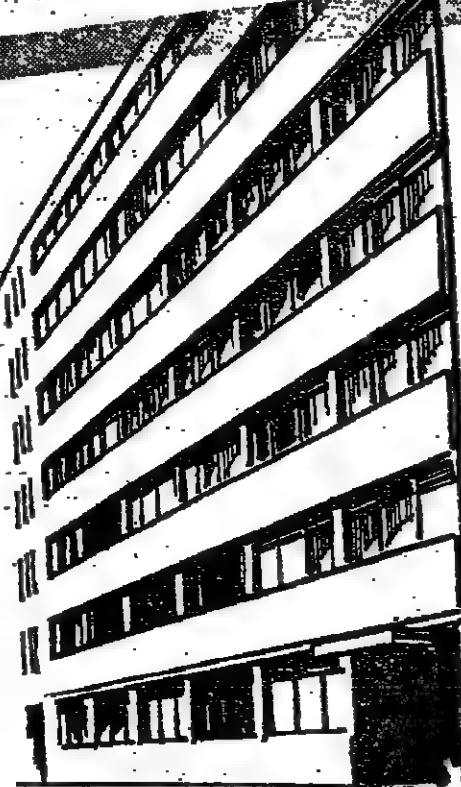
Cuthbert Heath House

The Group's new headquarters building was officially opened by the Chairman of Lloyd's, Sir Havelock Hudson, on 17th September 1976.

Sir Havelock Hudson remarked that in his book on Lloyd's, Eric Gibb wrote "There are today few Lloyd's Underwriters and no Lloyd's Brokers whose business has not been revolutionised by what Cuthbert Heath did; and to his imagination and foresight even the insurance companies owe much of their present prosperity."

Sir Havelock Hudson went on to comment "I have, during my period of office, tried to get across to the public, to politicians and to government officials, the enormous and highly successful efforts of Lloyd's Brokers in travelling the length and breadth of the globe to bring back business to the London Insurance Market."

Lloyd's Brokers contribution to the U.K. economy cannot be over-emphasised and no small part of that contribution comes from C. E. Heath & Co., a great Lloyd's firm."



Future prospects

It is unrealistic to expect the rate of growth achieved in the last few years to continue, especially if the pound achieves greater stability against other currencies. However, in the past year we have obtained a significant amount of new business and I see no reason why we should not continue to build on our firm foundations.

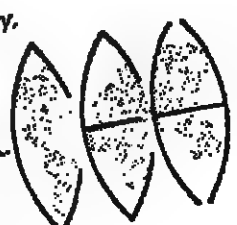
Satisfying the insurance requirements of our major corporate clients in the past year has been a challenge to our marketing skills. Our success gives me confidence that we shall continue to be recognised as having special strength in this area of vital importance to industry.

Although the 1975 Lloyd's Underwriting Account will almost certainly produce a small loss, a return to profitability should follow shortly. I am also hopeful that our Agencies company will produce a healthy contribution to our results.

Overseas we are looking for continued growth particularly from both our Australian operations—Broking and Underwriting.

Frank Holland

Copies of the full Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary.
C. E. Heath & Co. Ltd.
Cuthbert Heath House, 151-154 Minories, London EC3N 1NR.
Tel: 01-488 2488. Telex: 885280 888088.
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS
REINSURANCE BROKERS AND UNDERWRITING AGENTS



FINANCIAL NEWS

Valor rebounds to over £1m and hints at better things to come

By Tony Muv

Valor still has a long way to go before it again reaches the 1974 profit level of £2.6m. But its profits for the year to March 31 are 28 per cent up at £1.07m on turnover 16 per cent higher at £30.6m. Earnings a share are 6.57p against 5.74p.

Mr Michael Montague, the chairman of this cooker and heating group, believes that the rise in profits for the current year will be "more substantial" in view of this, the board is making its first increase in the group's dividend that they have felt it wise to make during a difficult domestic and international period. The total for the year is raised from 2.73p to 3.89p gross. The board believes that it will be justified in an increase "of greater scope" when considering the interim for the current year.

Although it took the hint, the market left the shares unchanged at 30p to give a yield of 9.6 per cent. The board is making its first increase in the group's dividend that they have felt it wise to make during a difficult domestic and international period. The total for the year is raised from 2.73p to 3.89p gross. The board believes that it will be justified in an increase "of greater scope" when considering the interim for the current year.



Mr Michael Montague, chairman of Valor.

gas cooker factory at Liverpool, which, while slowly improving, is still far away from the profit potential, which the board knows to be "reasonably attainable". Losses at the factory topped £500,000 over the

year, but Mr Montague is now forecasting a recovery at the plant. "We are hopeful that it will break even this year, and at the worst only show a slight loss," he says.

A range of new products has been well received. Order books and the level of inquiries are much better than last year, and in fact the group's forecasts for the current year are based on the "very substantially increased" orders, particularly exports, already secured. Over the past year, about 10 per cent of group turnover was accounted for by exports. These are up 21 per cent so far this year, and over the full term Mr Montague is looking for an increase in the group's export business of "at least 25 per cent".

At half time, the group's profits edged ahead from £203,000 to £259,000 but things were looking a little better. Mr Montague said that optimism must be tempered with caution when looking ahead, but the second produced a jump of 29 per cent in profits to £813,000.

Dobson Park now has £10m in sight

By Ashley Druker

Much better than its own expectations, Dobson Park Industries, the Nottingham-based mining and specialised engineering, turns in taxable profits for the half to April 2 last increased 9 per cent to £4.1m. And with the encouraging general pattern of trade, profits for the final stage to October 2 will be at least the same as that for the opening 12, says Mr Jim Ward, chairman. This, if achieved, would give Dobson Park a first-time £10m for the full year. In the preceding 12 months profits rose 13 per cent to a record £9,086m.

Meantime, shareholders collect an interim dividend raised from 1.1p gross to 1.28p. Much of the credit for the improved result goes to Kango division which turned in a substantial profit increase, up from £486,000 to £956,000, improved exports and maintained mining machinery sales. Export sales of the Kango hammer have been particularly good while home sales have also held up well. Production levels have been increased and further investment will lead to more productive capacity.

Elsewhere, exports and sales of spares have helped the mining machinery division to maintain production at good levels. Industrial products were hit by public spending cuts but the second-half should pick up "substantially". This is particularly so as the customer products demand is even more seasonal this year, says Mr Ward. Though profit of the overseas subsidiaries and the share of profit of overseas associated companies fell in the half, it is now on the cards that the full-time overseas turnover last year's total of £773,000. Overall sales in the half just past rose 16 per cent to £45.6m.

Recovery leaves A. Cohen just short of a record

The recovery at A. Cohen, the metal refiner and maker of non-ferrous alloys, continued over the second half and just failed to match the record £2.28m brought in for 1974. The group has finished 1976 with a 43 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £2.1m. Turnover went up from £29.7m to £40.6m to give margins of 5.25 per cent against 5.01 per cent. Earnings a share are raised from 33.3p to 45.3p, while the gross dividend is lifted from 5.86p to 7.56p.

Fitzwillton sells off construction side

Fitzwillton, the Dublin-based conglomerate undergoing a heavy rationalization programme, has agreed to sell its construction division for a total of £5.7m to a company controlled by the division's chief executive, Mr James McCarthy. The price—£2.1m short of the division's net tangible assets—will be satisfied by a cash payment of £4.2m and the issue of 14 per cent loan stock. William Mallinson & Denny Mott the timber group has a 30 per cent stake in the purchasing company, J. S. McCarthy.

Why Clyde Petroleum wants Lyon & Lyon

Clyde Petroleum's formal offer for Lyon & Lyon explains why the purchase of the company—which is being fought by the Lyon board—is so important to Clyde. Mr W. Gibson Biggar, Clyde's chairman, refers to the annual meeting in May when he told shareholders that Clyde had been advised by the Stock Exchange that a listing for the company's shares was premature at present. Prospects for obtaining a listing and starting the payment of dividends would in the view

No respite for hard-pressed Tomlinsons

No ending to Tomlinsons' hard labour can yet be seen. The carpet group reports that the key home market will probably stay tough "and continuance of the present profit trend depends on exports". This is little comfort. In the 25 weeks to March 25 sales rose by 28 per cent to £5.63m but pre-tax profits were only £42,000 against £22,000. Before recession set in, the group had 1972-73 pre-tax profits of approaching £1m; last year they were only £235,000. For the present, Tomlinsons continues to build up successful export sales.

Airflow Streamlines more than doubles

In the 12 months to February 28, pre-tax profits of Airflow Streamlines more than doubled to £636,000, compared with £252,000 in the preceding year. Turnover expanded from £4.99m to £7.68m. The total gross payment is being raised from 6.15p to 6.77p; earnings per share were up from 4.58p to 11.5p. The board expects a "satisfactory result" for the current year.

Yearling bond rate is unchanged

The coupon on Local Authority bonds is unchanged this week at 94 per cent at 100. The biggest borrowers over one year are Colchester at £1.5m, Fife, and Portsmouth with £1m apiece. Haringey heads the two year list with a £1m borrowing at 111 per cent, and is also raising £1m over three years at 124 per cent.

Chloride Europe in van of 30 pc jump

By Adrienne Gleeson

Economic recovery in Europe added power to the performance of the battery-making Chloride Group in the year to end-March. Improving demand for plastics and metals and, towards the end of the year, industrial batteries, resulted in a 30 per cent gain in the profits of Chloride Europe which was a "significant" factor behind the overall 37 per cent improvement at the pre-tax level to £26.4m.

Chloride America—which produced 16.5 per cent of trading profits—and Chloride Overseas—which produced 35.5 per cent—also did better, though the former continued to be affected by the low level of ordering and tight competitive position in batteries in the United States and Canada. Of the total profits, 58 per cent was earned outside the United Kingdom. Exchange gains contributed just over £1m to the pre-tax total.

At the time of the £16.7m issue last November, the group's dividend for the year has been increased by 25 per cent with Treasury permission to 7.08p per share. So the "yield" of the shares at last night's closing price of 107p is 6.6 per cent.

Despite the rights issue proceeds, the group's borrowings rose last year, to £54.7m at the balance sheet date as against £42.2m 12 months earlier. Rather less than half of the increase related to the effect of exchange rate changes on the value of overseas borrowings.

Other factors behind the increase in borrowings were the increase in Chloride's capital spending—up from £11.8m to £19.3m—and in the working capital requirements, which rose by £21m. Gearing in the year-end was 57 per cent (net gearing 77 per cent), while the group considers "satisfactory". The outlook for the current year is clouded by a dispute at two of the company's 15 plants; but Mr Michael Edwards, chairman, said yesterday that the group was in a "favourable overall position".

Tobenoil part in GEI Int upswing

By Our Financial Staff

GEI International, the specialist engineering group, has duly completed its seventh successive year of record profits. It looks set for a further increase in the current period to end-March next.

While sales grew by a quarter last year, margins widened to push pre-tax profits ahead by 37 per cent to a peak £4.14m. To an extent, the upturn stemmed from a good contribution from the Tobenoil packaging machinery interests acquired last year, £5m in the autumn of 1975. After a somewhat flat contribution during the first period under GEI's control, packaging machinery profits advanced by 27 per cent in 1976-77.

While the real impetus, as Mr Thomas Keacy, chairman, points out, has come from the group's determination to step outside the dull United Kingdom engineering market. Exports, both direct and indirect, are believed to contribute over half the profits total against about 38 per cent in the previous year.

The overseas subsidiaries currently make only about 5 per cent of total pre-tax, but their input is expected to double within five years before GEI adds the two European companies which it is now in the throes of acquiring.

On a divisional basis, it looks as if the brightest stars last year were the Midland Steel Products interests, manufacturing components for the commercial vehicle market, and the Midland Bright division. But, while European activities should continue to provide this year's spur, GEI is preparing for a gradual upturn in the domestic market.

Capital spending this year will be maintained at about £2m, bringing the total for the past six years to almost £3m. Net cash balances at the year end fell from £4.9m to £4.6m, net tangible assets grew by a fifth.

The shares rose 4p yesterday to 66p, and the total dividend is hoisted by the maximum to 5.7p gross per share.

Concrete and the Saudis

'Bison' reinforces defence

The decision by National Chemical Industries, of Saudi Arabia, to step once again into the United Kingdom to buy technical expertise is perhaps no surprise. But its choice of Concrete, the "Bison" manufacturer of structural pre-cast sections, to follow Beyer Peacock into a few eyebrows in the City last week.

Like Beyer, the Concrete board is preparing stiff resistance but the success of Mr Saudi approach will rest heavily on the attitude of Bryant Holdings, which owns a 28 per cent stake in Concrete.

NCI appears to have pitched attractive terms. Its £10.2m cash bid offers a 50p premium on the pre-bid price of 60p and the temptation for Bryant to settle must be quite strong. The bulk of it is stake, after all, was purchased at 75p per share.

But Bryant, which is under a Department of Trade investigation and whose chairman Mr Chris Bryant received summonses connected with two charges of conspiracy last March, seems to have forged strong links with Concrete and may think twice about passing the stake on.

Referring to Concrete in the last published accounts, the Bryant chairman told shareholders "we have benefited by continued close cooperation between our two companies and are now opening up new activities".

The Saudi Arabian company, on the other hand, can naturally offer the prospect of a strong workload in the Middle East—where Concrete has yet to establish a commanding presence—and full autonomy for the board. But the immediate reaction in the City was why bother to make a full bid? Why not go for licensing agreements, a pre-cast

section is scarcely a readily transport commodity?

The surprise was exaggerated by Concrete's profit record. After what the market has described as Concrete's "far years in 1960s", the group suffered as a result of Roman Point disaster in 1969.

Pre-tax profits in the year to end-March 1967 were £1.08m and were little changed years later. Strong efforts have been made to find alternatives for pre-cast section multi-storey car parking, has been part of the answer—but although profits for 1975-76 to £1.72m they were 14 per cent in the following six months and the grim climate of the U.K. construction industry made it a sorry tale of redundancies.

The answer to the Saudi interest, conversely, may rest quite outside the immediate sphere. The clue lies in the board's immediate defensive posture that assets are currently valued at 120-140p per share. This compares with net tangible assets of 64.8p share in the last published balance sheet. The directors' estimate of 109p per share may explain why Mr Terry Maher's P. picked up a near 25 per cent stake in Concrete before selling it on to Bryant.

Concrete is understood to own around acres of land adjoining Heathrow airport. Heathrow and it, as seems likely, plan difficulties force the Government to expropriate existing airports rather than develop a greenfield site to accommodate sprawling flow of international air traffic, land could yield very attractive valuations.

Ray Maugt

The Application Lists will open at 10 a.m. on Friday, 24 June 1977, and will close at any time thereafter on the same date.



The British Petroleum Company Limited

Offer for Sale

of 66,785,591 Ordinary Stock units

by the Bank of England on behalf of HM Government

at £8.45 per unit

Payable on application

£3.00 per unit

Payable on or before 6 December 1977

£5.45 per unit

£8.45 per unit

Copies of the Prospectus (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered) and Application Forms will be published in newspapers on 19 June and 20 June 1977 and may then be obtained from the Bank of England and from:

Main Post Offices

and

Main Branches of many UK Banks

OCCUPATIONAL PENSION FUNDS may obtain Preferential Application Forms by applying now to Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London EC4M 9AA or branches

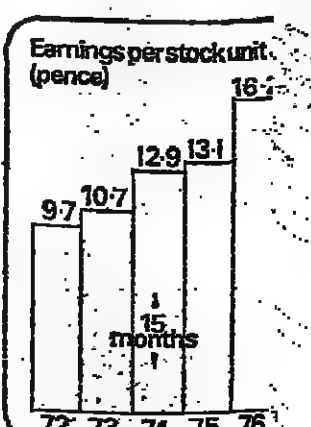
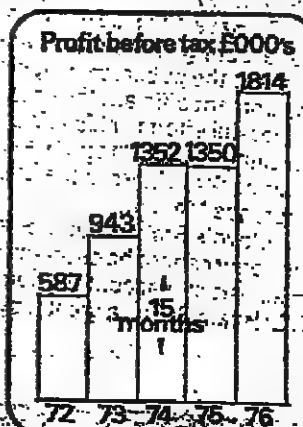
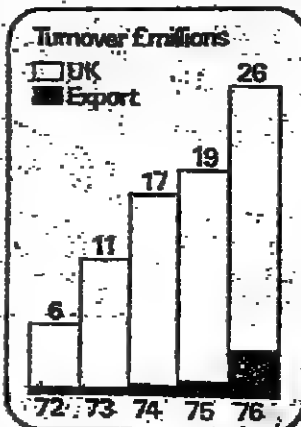
BLACK & EDGINGTON EXPORT LED PROFIT GROWTH

Chairman, Mr. R.G. Duffie, reports:

* Record figures: turnover and after-tax profit up 40%; exports increased three-fold

* Continued expansion with strategic acquisition of the A-Line Caravan Group of Companies

* Turnover for the first quarter of 1977 substantially higher than last year and current export enquiries at an all time high



Black & Edgington Limited
Port Glasgow, Scotland.

Camping and Leisure, Caravans, Workwear, Protective Clothing, Industrial Canvas Products

"We look forward to another year of record results"

Extracts from the Statement to Shareholders by Mr R. L. Doughty Chairman.

"The company had a very successful year in 1976 and I am pleased to tell you that trading to date in 1977 has shown further advancement.

The headway made resulted from improvement in almost all our interests and is summarised in the following figures for 1976:

Sales	£35,003,496 + 49.45%
Profit before tax	£2,606,109 + 44.23%
Profit available to Ordinary shareholders	£1,280,419 + 93.72%
Profit per Ordinary share	39.71p + 27.40%

As you can see the increases were very much more than the rate of inflation and therefore represents substantial improvement in real terms to your company.

The dividend was increased by one-tenth—the maximum permitted by current legislation and as you will have read in the

recent letter regarding the issue of additional shares, H.M. Treasury has granted permission, in the context of the rights issue, to increase the dividends for the current year's trading by 25%.

PROSPECTS
Almost all sectors of the business show increases in the first quarter of the year. We therefore believe it is reasonable to look forward to another year of record results, though it would perhaps be too optimistic to anticipate percentage increases as large as those we were fortunate enough to secure in 1976.

Marshall's Universal

If you require a copy of the Report and Accounts please write to the Secretary at:

Marshall's Universal Limited,
Marshall House, 468-473 Purley Way,
Croydon, Surrey CR9 4BL.

OFFICE AND ELECTRONIC MACHINES LIMITED

United Kingdom Distributors of Adler, Imperial and Triumph Typewriters, Calculators, and other Business Machines and Supplies.

Profits and Dividends continue to increase

Results for 1976	1976	1975	1974	Prospects for 1977
Turnover	£15,418,635	£12,875,812	£9,296,531	Turnover and profits should show a further increase
Profit after Tax	842,801	718,635	596,424	
Shareholders Funds per Share	74.0p	63.8p	55.9p	
Earnings per Share	13.8p	11.7p	9.9p	
Dividend per Share	3.6p	3.3p	3.1p	

ADLER O.E.M. Imperial

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary at 140-154 Borough High Street London SE1 1LH.

